

GOYAL): (a) and (b). Support prices have already been fixed for groundnut, sunflowerseed, soyabean and gram. In case of the remaining oilseeds, and pulses, onions and potatoes, there is at present no proposal to fix support prices on a regular basis. However, prices of these commodities are kept under constant watch and whenever the prices are expected to fall below economic levels, purchase operations through public/cooperative agencies would be undertaken. Whenever edible oils, pulses and potatoes are sold through public distribution system, interest of the consumer is also kept in view while fixing their retail prices.

सौराष्ट्र (गुजरात) में तम्बाकू की खेती

928. श्री कर्न सिंह भाई पटेल : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात में सौराष्ट्र प्रदेश के किसानों को तम्बाकू की खेती करने की अनुमति नहीं दी जाती है;

(ख) इस बारे में केन्द्रीय सरकार की क्या नीति है;

(ग) सौराष्ट्र के किसानों को तम्बाकू की खेती करने की अनुमति कौन से अधिकारी देते हैं; और

(घ) सौराष्ट्र के जूनागढ, जामनगर, राजकोट अमरेली, भावनगर, सुरेन्द्रनगर जिलों में गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रत्येक वर्ष में कितने क्षेत्र में तम्बाकू की खेती की गई ?

वित्त तथा राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री (श्री एच० एच० पटेल) : (क) से (ग) सौराष्ट्र में तम्बाकू की काश्त के सम्बन्ध में कोई पाबंदी नहीं लगाई गई है। लेकिन केन्द्रीय उत्पादन ब्लॉक नियम 1944 के नियम, 15 के अनुसार तम्बाकू के प्रत्येक काश्तकार से, उस सारी जमीन के संबंध में जिस पर तम्बाकू की काश्त की जाती है, उचित कार्य में सत्य की घोषणा करने और उसे केन्द्रीय उत्पादन 2451-LS-8.

ब्लॉक के सम्बन्धित अधिकारी को पेश करने की अपेक्षा की जाती है। इस समय सरकार की नीति यह है कि कानून के अन्तर्गत अपेक्षाओं को पूरा किये जाने पर तम्बाकू की काश्त की अनुमति दी जाय।

(घ) स्थिति का पता लगाया जा रहा है और सूचना यथा संभव शीघ्र सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Raids by Customs Officials as Godowns of Punjab Dairy Development Corporation

929. SHRI YADAVENDRA DUTT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the goods worth 25 lakhs of rupees concealed in the godowns of Punjab Dairy Development Corporation by the Chairman, Shri H. O. Dilawari were recovered during raids conducted by the Customs Officials; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) Dairy equipment, farm machinery, refrigerators, motor spare parts and some consumable articles, totally valued at Rs. 21,85,584 were seized from the godowns of the Punjab Dairy Development Corporation at Ludhiana and Chandigarh in the reasonable belief that these had, at the time of import, been misdeclared and under-valued and had also not been fully covered by the Customs Clearance Permit that had been produced for their clearance.

(b) The Collector of Customs, Bombay has confiscated the offending goods. In respect of goods valued at Rs. 14,22,900 an option has however been given to the importers to redeem them on payment of a fine of Rs. 5,85,000 Proceedings relating to personal penalties on Shri H. O.

Dilawari and Punjab Dairy Development Corporation are in progress and are expected to be finalised shortly.

Trend of International price of sugar

930. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state the trend of international price of sugar and the rates at which Government are exporting sugar to various countries under different agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): The prices of sugar in the international market have been declining since November-December, 1974. As against an annual average London Daily Price (LDP) of £ Sterling 304.9 per long tonne (PLT) during the year 1974, the average LDP during the 1975, 1976 and 1977 (upto October) have been £ Sterling 216, 153.9 and 117.3 respectively.

India exports sugar under direct agreement to EEC only. The prices for supplies under the Indo-EEC Sugar agreement are normally higher than the ruling market prices. The price realised for exports made against 1974-75 quota was £ Sterling 260 per long tonne, for 1975-76 £ Sterling 147.39 and for 1976-77 £ Sterling 157.18 PLT. The price for 1977-78 is provisionally fixed at £ Sterling 165.43 PLT. We also had an agreement with Iran to supply 1,20,000 tonnes sugar, but so far no exports have taken place.

Misuse of Licences by Drug Manufacturing Firms

931. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of drug manufacturing firms are being prosecuted for misusing their licences of importing raw materials; and

(b) if so, names of the drug firms and what action is being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir. A number of drug manufacturing firms and persons functioning as proprietors/partners are being prosecuted for misusing their licences of importing raw materials, based on the result of CBI investigations.

(b) The statement showing the particulars of the firms and the persons involved in these cases is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1120/77]. No import facility is now afforded to these firms/individuals facing prosecutions. Further action can be considered only after the result of the prosecution is known.

जमाखोरों और व्यापारियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही करने के लिए कानून बनाने का प्रस्ताव

932. श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी: क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार बाघ पदार्थों के मूल्यों को जानबूझकर ऊंचा रखने वाले जमाखोरों और व्यापारियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही करने के लिये कोई कानून बनाने का है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो ऐसा कानून कब तक बनाया जायेगा ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण कुमार घोषल) : (क) और (ख). राज्य सरकारों को अनुचित तथा अनैतिक व्यापार पद्धतियों को रोकने हेतु आवश्यक बहु-अधिनियम के उपबंधों का प्रयोग करने के