

production trends and dutiability on raw materials used in the manufacture of the sweets and confectionaries. However, the goods attract a levy of 5 per cent *ad valorem* under Item 58 CET.

(b) No Sir; items such as Cocoa powder, Drinking chocolates, Chocolates etc. continue to be assessed to duty under Item 1-A of the Central Excise Tariff.

**Memorandum from All India Paper and Allied Manufacturers Association regarding reduction in Customs and other Duties**

5075. SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Paper & Allied Manufacturers Association, Bombay had submitted to him a Memorandum on 24th February, 1978 *inter alia* suggesting;

(i) reduction in the existing customs and any other duties on the imported wax so as to bring its price at a reasonable level *vis-a-vis* indigenous price of available wax; and

(ii) fixing the pool price of both the imported and indigenous wax;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present high cost of duty is seriously affecting the packaging units, using wax as an essential raw-material for preserving food, Pharmaceuticals and other allied industries thus resulting in their inability to utilise even half of the installed capacity; and

(c) if so, the relief which he proposes to grant to this industry by way of reduction in Customs and other duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL) (a) The All India Paper & Allied Manufacturers' Association had submitted a representation dated 23rd February, 1978 containing these suggestions.

(b) The paper based packaging industry is facing recession in demand and is not able to utilise the full capacity. The shortage of indigenous paraffin wax and high price of imported wax are factors contributing to its cost.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

**Export of Essential Commodities**

5076. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4274 on 16th December 1977 regarding export of Essential Commodities used as food and state the steps taken by the Government in regard to export of Commodities for the year 1977-78 and policy adopted for the purpose for the year 1978-79?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Essential commodities of mass consumption have been allowed to be exported during 1977-78 only to the extent that there has been a clear surplus. Commodities having no supply constraint have been allowed to be exported freely. During 1977-78, illustratively, the exports of, fresh vegetables, potato, onions, turmeric, cummin seeds, Niger seed and oil, Kardi seed and Oil, HPS groundnut, roasted and blanched peanuts, pulses, Instant, dehydrated & Pre-cooked pulses, Pomfret and dried Bombay Duck have been either banned or restricted.

Similarly, in view of increased availability and fall in domestic prices, exports of gur and sugar have also been allowed.

The present policy approach to the exports of essential commodities used as food will be maintained in 1978-79.