

(b) No funds are separately earmarked for cash compensatory support for individual product groups. An assessment is made of the requirement of funds for CCS for all the product groups and on that basis provision is made in the Budget.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reports of the Working Groups set up under Ministry

11404. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL:

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of working groups set up under the Ministry have furnished their reports to Government regarding export and import problems and related matters;

(b) if so, important details of the recommendations made by these working groups on various subjects; and

(c) details of action taken so far/proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) A number of Task Forces have been set up by the Ministry of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation for the purpose of drawing up action-oriented programme for exports. Reports have been received in respect of the following:—

1. Task Force on Gem & Jewellery.
2. Task Force on Electronics.
3. Task Force on Agricultural Exports.
4. Task Force on Leather & Leather Manufactures.
5. Task Force on Wooden Furniture

6. Task Force on Export Services.

7. Task Force on Small Scale Sector.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-4541/79).

(c) An Empowered Inter-Ministerial Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary has been constituted to process these recommendations.

Opium Harvest

11405. CH. HARI RAM MAKKASAR GODARA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the columns of *Indian Express* of 5th April, 1979 under the heading 'Cashing in on bumper opium harvest' wherein it has been said that high consumption of opium has effected the potential of the people of Malwa and Majha in Punjab and Sirsa and Hissar in Haryana and parts of UP and Rajasthan also, to the extent that their recruitment in the forces has been adversely affected;

(b) if so, his reaction in the matter; and

(c) the steps that are proposed to be taken to get these people rid of this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (c). The reports received by Government do not show that there is high consumption of opium in Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and Rajasthan or that the recruitment to the armed forces has been adversely affected in any manner.

Oral consumption of opium by addicts is strictly controlled by the State Governments. The total number of registered addicts in the country has

progressively declined from 2,09,506 in 1956 to 55,003 in 1977.

Import Licences for importing watches

11406. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the value of import licences issued during 1977-78 and 1978-79 for importing watches in 'SKD' and 'CKD' conditions by parties with no assembly shop at all;

(b) whether it is a fact that this has led to the closure of many small watch-making units in Rajkot, Morvi and Porbandur; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to arrest this tendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Import licences were issued to parties having assembly facilities only.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

News Item regarding Bumper Crop of Opium

11407. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news item in the Indian Express of 5th April, 1979 wherein it has been said that there will be a bumper crop of opium this year and the smugglers are openly busy in bringing opium to Punjab; Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, his reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b). The reports received by Government show that the production of opium

for the current year 1978-79 is estimated to be about 1300 tonnes as compared to 1610 tonnes produced last year i.e. 1977-78. According to the existing regulations, cultivators are required to surrender their entire production of opium to the Narcotics Department. Strict and stringent controls are exercised over cultivation, movement, transport and possession of opium to ensure that it is not diverted to illicit channels.

Facilities given by L.I.C. to insured persons

11408. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state what specific facilities have been given by the Life Insurance Corporation to the persons who are insured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): It is presumed that information is desired in relation to servicing of life insurance policies and the loan facilities available to policy-holders. The following are among the facilities available to the policy-holders:—

(i) *Non-forfeiture of policy:*

If policy-holder has paid premium for three years and owing to certain contingency he is unable to pay further premiums, he is eligible to get the benefit of the paid-up amount.

(ii) *Guaranteed surrender value:*

If the policy-holder has paid premium for three years and is unable to pay further premiums, he is eligible to get the surrender value of the policy.

(iii) *Days of Grace:*

LIC accepts premiums not paid on due dates within the days of grace without interest.