

वाणिज्य, नागरिक पूर्ति तथा सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आरिफ बाग) : भारत तथा सोवियत संघ के बीच 14 मार्च, 1979 को हस्ताक्षरित करार के अनुसार 1979 में सोवियत संघ द्वारा भारत को 6 लाख टन अपरिष्कृत तेल (खाद्य तेल नहीं) दिया जाना है और उसी वर्ष में भारत द्वारा सोवियत संघ को चावल दिया जाना है जिसका मूल्य अपरिष्कृत तेल के मूल्य के बराबर होगा।

Export of Desi Tobacco

7903. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNA RAO: Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted export of desi tobacco;

(b) whether the Government fixed any rate for the above tobacco; and

(c) whether Government are purchasing the above tobacco through S.T.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b). Export of all types of tobacco is allowed freely but export of flue-cured virginia, sun-cured virginia, sun-cured Natu country) and sun-cured jutti tobacco are subject to observance of minimum export prices.

(c) No, Sir. The STC purchases only virginia tobacco.

Regular Supply of Essential Items to West Bengal

7904. SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government has expressed concern over irregular supply of essential items and held the transport

particularly water ways and Railways responsible for the present situation;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures are proposed to be taken up by Government for ensuring regular supply of essential items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The West Bengal Government has expressed concern about shortage of salt, kerosene, coal, edible oils and pulses in that State. The matter was taken up immediately with the concerned Ministries.

Foodgrains:

Some difficulty has been experienced in the inter-state and intra-state movement of foodgrains. This has been caused by operational difficulties in rail movement and also due to inadequate availability of truck. Continuous efforts are being made to maximum availability of rail and road transport capacity for movement of foodgrains to and within West Bengal.

Kerosene:

The overall availability of kerosene in the country has been affected due to delay in receipts of the product from USSR. Adequate imports from other sources could not be obtained. Import of kerosene during March, 1979 was low at Haldia which forms the base of kerosene supplies for West Bengal. Therefore, there has been some constraint on the release of kerosene in West Bengal during the past few weeks.

Salt:

There has been some shortfall in the supply of salt to West Bengal in the first quarter of 1979 due to difficulty in movement of salt by coastal shipping and also because West Bengal Civil Supplies Corporation has not been able to diversify its loading for utilising special rakes made available by the Railway Board.