

(b) A quota of 300 tonnes of vegetables has been allowed to be exported per month by the State Government agency subject to the condition that 85 per cent of each consignment of vegetables for export is taken from out of the additional production undertaken by the State Government and the total exports of vegetables do not exceed 50 per cent of the additional production.

Export of refined Groundnut Oil to West Asian Countries and Iran

471. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDESE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that groundnut is exported to West Asian countries and Iran;

(b) whether there is any demand for refined groundnut oil also in these countries; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to allow the export of refined groundnut oil to these countries instead of groundnut in order to utilise the potential of the refining industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) NAFED has been allowed to export a limited quantity of H.P.S. groundnuts to all permissible destinations including West Asia and Iran. H.P.S. groundnuts are normally used as edible nuts and not for crushing as a source of groundnut oil.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. In view of the shortage of edible oils in the country, Government do not propose to allow export of refined groundnut oil. Imported edible oils are being refined by the refining industry in the country. Export policy of an essential commodity like groundnut oil cannot be

based on the refining potential of the refining industry. It is decided by the availability of groundnut oil in the country as well as the domestic price trends.

Proposal to raise Price of Iron Ore Exported to Japan

472. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the price of Iron ore being exported to Japan;

(b) if so, whether any talks in this regard with officials of the Japan Government were held in recent months; and

(c) if so, the out-come thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c). As a result of discussions between M.M.T.C. and Japanese Steel Mills, a weighted average price increase of 19.35 per cent over the current prices has been secured by MM.T.C. for export of iron ore to Japan during 1980-81.

Discussions between Goan Exporters and Japanese Steel Mills are still in progress.

Shortage of Iron Ore in four Steel Plants

473. SHRI K PRADHANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the country's four steel plants at Bokaro, Durgapur, Burnpur and Rourkela may face acute shortage of iron ore in the near future if the present power crisis affecting the mines at Kiriburu, Gua and Noamati is not solved immediately; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the efforts of Government in this regard?