

good quality sheets declaring the same as of defective quality and get them cleared at concessional rates of import duty. The entire quantity of prime material so imported is sold at a much lower price than the sale price of Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation. It has, therefore, been suggested that the import of stainless steel sheets be restricted to MMTC only and that the import through export houses be banned totally.

(b) Information regarding the number of such cases and details thereof is being collected from the customs authorities.

(c) There is no scope for such misuse in respect of imports by the canalising agency.

Measures to prevent smuggling of antiques

807. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item captioned "Antique-smugglers bypass the law" appearing in the Sunday Standard, New Delhi, dated 25th May, 1980;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto;

(c) whether cases of such smuggling of antiques are on the rise and a big haul of such antiques was recently detected at a farm house in the capital; and

(d) if so, the measures which Government propose to take to prevent such illicit trading, possession and smuggling of various types of precious antiques?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

चीनी का आयात

808. श्री भीष्मा भाई:

श्री रामावतार झास्त्री:

श्री अमर राय प्रधान:

श्री जनार्दन पुजारी:

श्री चित्त बसु:

श्री नन्द किशोर शर्मा:

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश में चीनी की बढ़ती हुई कमी को ध्यान में रखते हुए उसका आयात किया जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो कितनी चीनी का आयात करने का विचार है और उस पर कितनी राशि खर्च होगी; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा गन्ने का उत्पादन इस हद तक सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्या प्रोत्साहन देने के बारे में कार्यवाही की जा रही है कि चीनी का आयात करने की आवश्यकता न पड़े बल्कि घरेलू मांग की पूर्ति करने के बाद चीनी के निर्यात में विदेशी मुद्रा भी अर्जित की जा सके?

वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात व खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी): (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) राज्य व्यापार निगम ने 200,000 मी. टन परिष्कृत चीनी आयात करने के लिए संविदा की है जिस पर लगभग 120.34 करोड़ रु. के आयात व्यय का अनुमान है।

(ग) भारत सरकार ने 1979-80 में गन्ने की 12.60 रु. प्रति क्विंटल की दर से उच्चतर न्यूनतम कानूनी कीमत निर्धारित की जो वर्ष 1978-79 में निर्धारित की गई कीमत से 2.50 रु. प्रति क्विंटल अधिक थी। कुछ राज्य सरकारें उपजकर्ताओं को कीटनाशक दवाइयों, बीज तथा पौध संरक्षण कार्यों की लागत पर उपदान तथा ब्याज मुक्त ऋण देकर और उपजकर्ताओं के खेतों में प्रदर्शन आयोजित करके प्रोत्साहन दे रही हैं। भारत सरकार ने गन्ने की फसल

पर पौष संरक्षण उपाय करने के लिए 2 करोड़ रु. के परिव्यय की व्यवस्था करने का सिद्धय किया है। ऐसे चीनी कारखानों को उपयुक्त प्रोत्साहन देने के बारे में सोचा जा रहा है। जो अक्टूबर-नवम्बर 1980 में जल्दी पिराई का काम शुरू कर दें ताकि किसान गन्ने की बेहतर कीमतें प्राप्त कर सकें और उसके परिणाम स्वरूप गन्ने का बेहतर उत्पादन हो सके।

Sugar from Foreign Countries

809. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Central Government for supply of sugar quota to the States;

(b) whether India has brought some refined sugar through London commodity brokers; and

(c) whether some refined sugar is still awaited from some foreign countries and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) The imported sugar is planned to be allocated to State Governments for meeting the sugar demand of the bulk consumers in their areas. The Government have been requested to indicate their requirements. The State Trading Corporation would also approach national-level cooperative organisations for their requirements for selling sugar through their own State-level organisations.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. A contract for import of 2,00,000 MT of refined sugar has recently been concluded by STC.

Anti-Hoarding Measures in Bihar

810. SHRI SURYA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-hoarding measures taken by Government in Bihar have

proved ineffective and the prices of mustard oil, washing soap, sugar, horlicks, vaishali, exercise books, etc. have not only gone up but their shortage has become more acute; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken some steps in this regard and if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State Government and a reply will be laid on the table of the Sabha after its receipt.

Alleged Violation of F. E. R. A. by a Soft Drink Firm

811. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case has been registered against a soft drink firm for alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act and cheating by the firm and its Directors; and

(b) if so, what is the name of the said firm and other details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the case registered by C.B.I. on 5-4-80 against M/s. Bisleri (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay, a company manufacturing soft drinks, for alleged offences under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, and also under the I.P.C.

The case has been registered against the above said Company and two of its Directors namely, Shri Ramesh J. Chauhan and H. M. Golwala. The allegation against them is that they obtained permission of the R.B.I. for remittance of £14,336 from India by