

(c) The project is scheduled for completion in 1987.

Seizure of Silver

1128. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of silver is being smuggled out of the country annually;

(b) the value of the silver seized during the year 1982-83 by the Customs;

(c) whether it is a fact that three tonnes of silver were seized by the Director of Revenue and Intelligence during the month of May this year in Bombay;

(d) if so, the value of the silver seized and the names of the persons arrested; and

(e) the names of the countries to which silver is being smuggled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) ;

(a) According to reports received by Government, silver continues to be sensitive to being smuggled out of the country.

(b) The value of silver seized during the years 1982 and 1983 (upto May) was Rs. 17 lakhs and Rs. 7.69 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) On 14-5-1983, Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 2, 675 Kgs. of silver valued at about Rs. 99.44 lakhs at Bombay. One person named Dawood Issaq Merchant was arrested. The investigations in the case are still in progress.

(e) Silver is mainly smuggled out to Dubai, Thailand and Hongkong, directly as also through the Indo-Pak and Indo-Nepal borders.

S.T.C. Contract for Export of Sugar

1129. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the price of sugar prevailing in international market during June, 1983 and the corresponding figure during 1982 :

(b) whether it is a fact that during both these years STC completed the contract for export of sugar at a price which was much below the international market ;

(c) if so, at what price the STC contracted for export and what was total loss suffered by country during 1982 and 1983 separately ; and

(d) the reasons for accepting a lower price when international price was much higher ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) The average price of sugar in the Daily London Market for white LDP sugar in June, 1983 was £ 200 per tonne FOB, UK port, against the average price of £ 131 in June, 1982,

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The price obtained was the best available price for Indian sugar.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Sugar

1130. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI CANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of sugar India has been assigned for export under International Sugar Agreement during the last year, 1982-83 ;

(b) whether the entire quantity thus contracted could be exported ; and

(c) how much has been sanctioned for export by India during the year 1983-84 and as per past experience whether India would be able to export all the quantity, and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) During the Calendar Year 1982, India had been allocated an export quota of 6.47 lakh tonnes of white sugar by the International Sugar Organisation.

(b) S.T.C. contracted for 5.10 lakh tonnes, out of which 4.66 lakh tonnes was shipped by December 1982 and balance was shipped in January, 1983.

(c) During the Calendar Year 1983, India has been allocated an export quota of 6.50 lakh tonnes of white sugar, Efforts are being made to export the quantity allocated.

Export of Molasses Through Cooperatives

1131. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any demand from the industry that the entire export of molasses be given to the co-operative on a five year long term basis so that the profit and loss incurred are shared by them ;

(b) whether Government have considered these suggestions and have accepted it : and

(c) if not, the reasons for non-acceptance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c) On occasion suggestions have been made that export of molasses should be handled through

cooperatives. Government have examined these suggestions but keeping in view the factors including the nature of the commodity, the trends in the international market and the constraint of infrastructural facilities it has been decided to continue the existing policy.

Prospects of Export of Molasses during 1983-84

1132. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of molasses in the country during 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 ;

(b) how much of the above quantity could be consumed within the country and exported during each year : and

(c) whether the country has suffered any loss and if so whether it was due to the reluctance of Government not to export particularly during 1982-83, when international market was favourable and if not, the reasons for the same and the prospects of export during 1983-84 vis-a-vis production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) The production of molasses in India during 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-1983 has been as follows :-

(Lakh MT)	
Year	Quantity
1980-81	21.90
1981-82	39.93
1982-83	35.90

(b) The figures of consumption/demand within the country and export outside India are given below :—