

trade talks between India and China. A high level Indian trade delegation is visiting China for discussions from August 12-18 on matters of bilateral trade interest.

Export of Sugar by STC on Bilateral Basis

3867. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Trading Corporation has decided to export sugar on bilateral basis ;

(b) whether it has already shipped two lakh tonnes to neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal where India has a freight advantage ;

(c) whether sugar has also been exported to Morocco and West Asian countries like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia ;

(d) whether out of three lakh tonnes contracted for export in 1984, only one lakh tonnes has been exported to international trading houses so far ;

(e) if so, whether Government have not realised any further quantity of sugar for exports apart from three lakh tonnes, it has decided to import sugar either to replenish stocks as a result of more exports or sell the same on high seas basis ; and

(f) whether STC is confident that it will make a profit in the import of over three lakh tonnes of sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) For the present, contracting for export of sugar has been suspended. Before suspension, sugar was being exported, inter alia, on bilateral basis.

(b) In 1983-84, 1.55 lakh MTs of sugar was exported on bilateral basis. Of this, 1.04 lakh MTs was shipped to Sri Lanka and 0.15 lakh MTs to Maldives. During 1984-85, 0.70 lakh MTs of sugar was exported on bilateral basis including the following quantities to neighbouring countries :

Name of country	Quantity lakh MT
Bangladesh	0.11
Nepal	0.08
Sri Lanka	0.24

(c) 0.36 lakh MTs was also exported to Morocco bilateral basis during 1983-84. About 0.11 lakh MTs of sugar was exported to Saudi Arabia during 1984-85.

(d) Of the total export of 3.09 lakh MTs of sugar during calendar year 1984, 1.91 lakh MTs has been exported through the international trading houses.

(e) and (f) After assessing domestic availability and exportable surplus, it was decided to export 6.5 lakh tonnes of sugar during 1984. This is the quota allotted to India for this year by the International Sugar Organisation. Of this, STC had contracted for export of about 3.09 lakh tonnes. However, as a result of reassessment conducted recently, a reduction is contemplated in the projected production. Further export contracting has, therefore, been suspended for the present. However, as a measure of abundant caution, import of 3.5 lakh tonnes of sugar has been contracted by STC, mainly to prevent hoarding and speculation in the free sale sugar.

Losses Suffered by Public Sector Enterprises

3868. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether country's public sector enterprises, after making an overall profit of nearly Rs. 700 crores are estimated to have made a loss in 1983-84 ;