

Engaging ships of foreign Shipping Co. for importing cashew nuts.

2747. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cashew Corporation of India is engaging ships of foreign Shipping Companies for bringing cashew nuts from East African countries;

(b) if so, the terms of Agreements entered into by the Cashew Corporation of India with foreign Shipping Companies; and

(c) the reasons for not engaging ships of Indian Shipping Companies, including Shipping Corporation of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Full Liner Terms for carriage of 216,000 tonnes to be shipped during October 1971 to December 1972 at £6,40 per tonne have been entered into in consultation and clearance with Ministry of Shipping and Transport.

(c) The ships of Indian companies could not be engaged due to the non-competitive freight rate.

Import of Arecanuts from Ceylon

2748. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing Arecanut from Ceylon;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether arecanut is also exported from India and there is difficulty in finding foreign markets for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). There has been imbalance in our trade with Sri Lanka and discussions had been going on in the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Committee for Economic Co-

operation to redress the imbalance on the one hand and to expand and diversify trade on the other. It was in this context that it was agreed in November 1971 in the Joint Committee to import a small quantum of five hundred tons of arecanuts from Sri Lanka through the State Trade Corporation but this quantity has not been imported so far.

(c) Arecanuts are also being exported by India but exporters have been experiencing difficulties because of competition from other sources of supply and comparatively higher prices of Indian arecanuts.

Coir Board's advertisements through foreign advertising firm

2749. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coir Board is doing its advertisement through Hindustan Thompson, an advertising firm in which majority shares are foreign;

(b) if so, whether it is not a violation of the policy laid down by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c). The Coir Board has engaged M/s Hindustan Thompson Associates as its publicity consultants. The Board was advised to discontinue this arrangement. The firm had, however, filed a writ petition and obtained a stay order. The Coir Board decided to continue the services of M/s. Hindustan Thompson Associates Ltd. until the case is decided by the High Court.

Complaints Regarding Restrictions on Expansion of Export-Oriented Units

2750 SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
SHRI D. D. DESAI:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state: