

Export of Shellac

9344. SHRI MARENDRA SINGH:
SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY:
SHRI R V BADE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the maximum export price for Shellac has been fixed for about Rs 1844 per 75 kg while the world market prevailing price is much lower than that,

(b) the Shellac exported (in quintals) in each of the last three years and also in each of the first three months of 1974 and 1975, and

(c) whether there is a steep fall in exports and if so, how much and the reasons thereof and steps being taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH)

(a) The Government of India fixes the minimum (not maximum) export price. The prevailing international price of shellac changes from time to time and the minimum export price fixed by the Government is adjusted accordingly.

(b) India's export of shellac during 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75 were 75636, 86077 and 70009 quintals respectively. The exports during first three months of 1974 and 1975 were 13899 and 9520 quintals respectively. The figures for 1975 are proviso.

(c) The main reason for decline in exports during the last two decades has been the increasing competition from cheaper synthetics. The exports have picked up to some extent during 1974-75 as compared to 1973-74. To stimulate demand for shellac in the long term interest of the industry and the exports, the Government of India have already reduced the minimum export prices by 15 per cent in the case of machine made grades and 22 per cent in the case of hand-made grades as compared to the prices fixed last year.

Decline in Export of Shellac

9345 SHRI G P. YADAV Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Adivasis in villages Balumat, Madhu Dand and Chanki of District Palamau (Bihar) are getting these days about Rs 150 for each kilogram of lac (raw shellac) while they used to get about Rs 11 last year,

(b) is it the result of the steep downfall in exports of Shellac due to Government's fixing the minimum export price at Rs 1844 per 75 kg while the international prices are much lower,

(c) has it also thrown out of gear about 25 000 poor employees working in about 400 cottage industry shellac manufacturing units in rural areas; and

(d) full facts in this regard and remedial measures being taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH)

(a) It is admitted that the price of sticklac has declined steeply as compared to last year.

(b) No, Sir. The fall is due to higher production combined with slackening of demand in the world market on account of recession, and increasing competition from cheaper synthetics.

(c) and (d). The fall in exports has affected the industry. As a remedial measure, Government have recently reduced the Minimum Export Prices of Shellac by 15 per cent in the case of machine made grade and 22 per cent in the case of handmade grades as compared to the prices fixed last year to stimulate demand for shellac in the long term interest of the industry and the exports.