

Export of Edible Oils

302. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the fact that the decision to permit exports of groundnut oil, rape seed oil and mustard seed oil had failed to enthruse the traders, much, owing to their bleak export prospects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the precise object and purpose of this decision and how far it has succeeded in achieving that object; and

(d) what modification is proposed to be introduced in this regard to achieve the said object?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main hindrance in the way of exports of these commodities is the huge disparity between domestic and international prices.

(c) This decision was taken as there were indications that the prices in the domestic market might fall significantly and thus make exports possible. Prices are still not competitive with the international prices.

(d) A Sub-Committee has since been set up by the Board of Trade to consider the ways and means of increasing exports of oilseeds, oils and oilcakes.

Import of Cylinders

303. SHRI G. S. MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the category of following types of cylinders imported from 1964 onwards:

(i) Cylinders for storing Hydrogen, chlorine, Oxygen, Air, etc.

(ii) L. P. Gas cylinders for distribution of domestic gas; and

(b) the quantum of foreign exchange being consumed annually for importing these cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMAD): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Freight on Industrial Goods

304. SHRI G. S. MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have introduced the policy of equitable dispersal of railway freight on industrial goods so as to end the regional imbalance in the industries; and

(b) if so, on what category of industrial goods and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Railway freight rates are telescopic in structure so as to make long distance movement of industrial goods economically possible and thereby to help, to the extent it is possible for railways to do so, in mitigating geographical disadvantages.

(b) Telescopic rates are generally in force and in the case of industrial raw materials the level of rates is suitably pitched low so that the burden of freight rates over long distances is reasonable. Special rates are quoted in individual cases where justified. The extent of freight support is varying from commodity to commodity and is determined on the basis of all relevant considerations.

Trade Agreements

305. SHRI G. S. REDDI: SHRI NATHU RAM AHIRWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the trade pacts and agreements concluded by Government with fore-