

Delegation for Export of Indian Fruit and Vegetables

4115. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of members of the trade team that went round the world recently to find markets for Indian fruit and vegetables, the towns they visited and the nature of trade talks they had at these places;

(b) the total cost of the trip by way of air fare and foreign exchange;

(c) how far the scheme announced in December, 1968 by the Banana and Fruit Development Committee for earning Rs. 40 crores has been successful with some of its salient details;

(d) whether it is a fact that trial shipments of bananas to Japan and U.S.S.R. proved a dismal failure and if so, the amount of loss suffered in terms of rupees by the State Trading Corporation; and

(e) the quantity of bananas exported by India from 1962 to 1968; and the reasons why our packing is poor despite special advice taken from an Italian expert?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) and (b). No team sponsored by the Government has recently gone round the world to find markets for Indian fruit and vegetables.

(c) No such scheme was announced by the Banana & Fruit Development Committee.

(d) The trial shipments of bananas made to the USSR and Japan did not prove a total failure, as these helped in establishing the feasibility of export of bananas to distant destinations S.T.C. have, however, suffered

a loss of about Rs. 24 lakhs against all the shipments made to the USSR and Japan on account of high ocean freight rate and high packing charges etc.

(e) The quantities of bananas exported from India during the financial years 1962-63 to 1968-69 were as follows:—

Year	Quantity in tonnes
1962-63	11269
1963-64	10730
1964-65	8052
1965-66	91949
1966-67	12012
1967-68	3878
1968-69	10235

Our packing is not poor and is generally acceptable to foreign buyers. Various methods of packing of bananas in wooden crates, polyethylene bags and cardboard cartons were tried during the various shipments. The packs were designed on the basis of similar packs used by some of the other exporting countries. Government also consider the grant of import licences for packing materials, when suitable quality of materials is not available in the country.

Air travel by General Manager Canteen Stores Department (India)

4116. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Board of Administration i.e. General Manager of the Canteen Stores Department (India) is entitled to travel by air under the relevant Rules;

(b) if so, the number of times the incumbent of this post travelled by