

**Requirement of Raw Cashewnuts**

4225. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated total requirements of raw cashewnuts at present;

(b) how much of this requirement is met by indigenous production;

(c) the value of raw cashewnuts imported during the last three years;

(d) whether there is any scheme under consideration to raise the production of raw cashewnuts in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) The estimated requirement of raw cashewnuts during 1969-70 for export is 2.5 lakh tonnes.

(b) The current indigenous production of raw cashewnuts is estimated at 1,60,000 tonnes, of which a part is consumed internally.

(c)

Year	Value in Rs. crores
1966-67	22.94
1967-68	25.08
1968-69	31.38

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Development schemes have been initiated both in the Central and State sectors to raise indigenous production progressively and especially by 76,000 tonnes by the end of 1973-74. A capital outlay of Rs. 75 lakhs has been earmarked for the various programmes in the Central sector for the Fourth Five Year Plan. In the State sector it is proposed to bring an additional area of 5.18 lakhs acres under cashew cultivation and distribution of quality planting material. The States covered would be Kerala, Mysore, Goa Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

**Supply of rock phosphate and potash by Israel**

4226. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Israel has been trying to sell India much needed fertilisers—rock phosphate and potash at international prices or even at 10 per cent cheaper rates than we can obtain elsewhere;

(b) whether the State Trading Corporation had said last year that the requirements of rock phosphate for the year 1968-69 was 800,000 tons; and

(c) whether Government failed to take advantage of 5 officers made by Israel?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) and (c). Some offers were received by the State Trading Corporation from firms in Israel for supply of rock phosphate and potash. Offers for rock phosphate were not complete in respect of specifications, price and delivery schedule. The Corporation had also by then made purchases of all its requirements.

Prices for potash of Israel origin quoted in offers received by the Corporation were considered higher than those at which imports had already been contracted by the Corporation from other sources.

(b) Yes, Sir.

**Setting up of a High Powered Council of Economic Advisers**

4227. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high-powered Council of Economic Advisers is being set up in the Prime Minister's Secretariat to formulate new economic policies and to keep a watch on their implementation;