

the Government is aware of likely hazards of seeds imports. Soyabean in split and cracked form only has been put in the Free List of Imports so that same is unfit for sowing purpose within the country.

(f) Development of oilseed is a part of Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses under the Deptt. of Agriculture. A Centrally sponsored scheme on oilseed production programme is being implemented to augment the production of oilseeds. Financial assistance is given for inputs and other activities like seeds, mini kits and farm implements etc. Frontline, demonstrations on farmers fields are also organised.

Narcotic Drugs Trade

969. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MEHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the narcotic drugs trade is flourishing in coastal area of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether inquiries revealed involvement of higher functionaries relating to this crime by CBI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to curb the narcotic drugs trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

(d) The major portion of the Indo-Pak border, vulnerable to drug smuggling, has been fenced and provided with flood lights. The Bilateral Agreements with Myanmar and Pakistan provide for increasing cooperation in matters relating to demand reduction and prevention of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. The BSF and Coast Guards have been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs. In addition to the above, all the enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act maintain constant vigil against any illicit drug trafficking within the country.

Export of Soft Drinks

970. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of soft drinks exported during this year, till October 30, 1998 country-wise; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The export figures for the current year are available for the period April to August 1998 only from Directorate General of Commercial intelligence and Statistics (DGCI & S), Calcutta. The total value of exports of soft drink concentrates and processed fruits and juices during the period April-August 1998 was Rs. 124.02 crores (Source DGCI & S, Calcutta and APEDA). The exports have been mainly to USA, UK, Japan the Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Russia, Jordan, UAE, South Africa, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Srilanka and Singapore. The country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India Monthly/annual bulletins published by the DGCI & S, copies of which are supplied to the Parliament Library.

Winding up of NTC Mills in Gujarat

971. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to wind up the closed NTC mills in Gujarat including that can be partially restarted, like the spinning section;

(b) the number of NTC mills or a particular section of mills that can be reopened, with some efforts;

(c) whether the Government have finished a scheme of early retirement of its technical staff and officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) NTC (Gujarat) which manages 11 NTC Mills in the State of Gujarat stands referred to BIFR under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The BIFR has declared NTC (Gujarat) alongwith its constituent units as a Sick Company and has issued a showcause notice for winding up of the company.

No NTC Mill in the State of Gujarat has been closed. However, there is cessation of activities in most of the mills due to shortage of working capital. Government are considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the networth becoming positive within the prescribed period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view while finalising the revised turn around strategy.

(c) and (d) A Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been in operation in NTC and as on 31.10.1998, 8584 employees have already availed of the benefits of VRS in NTC (Gujarat) Ltd. There is no special retirement scheme separately for technical staff and officers. Under the VRS scheme due compensation at the rate of 45 days wages/salaries for each completed year of service or the wages/salaries for the bal-