

QRs provided for in Article XI. Article XVIII B covers developing countries. Article XVIII B is designed to take into account the interests of members whose economies can only support low standards of living and are in the early stages of development. A member taking recourse to Article XVIII B is required to have periodic consultations with the Committee on BOP Restrictions.

India, in recent years, has had consultations with the Committee on BOP Restrictions in 1994 (simplified consultations) and in 1995 (full consultations). During the 1995 consultations India had been asked to present a firm time-table for the phasing out of restrictions as the general feeling was that due to the improved foreign exchange position, India can no longer take recourse to BOP cover.

India has recently notified all the QRs maintained by it to the WTO Secretariat in fulfilment of its earlier obligations. The lifting of QRs has been cited in the 8th Plan document also and is in consonance with and in keeping with our own objectives of liberalisation keeping the likely impact on the domestic industry as well as on the agriculture sector. The whole issue is under examination.

(c) Since India is maintaining QRs for BOP purposes, the consultations in this regard with WTO are likely to be held shortly.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Clearance to Holiday Resort

586. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a Holiday resort is being constructed at Morkal in the Nagarahole National Park in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the clearance has been obtained from the Central Government for its construction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) No such proposal has been received so far in this Ministry for environment clearance.

Smuggling of Girls to Jedah

587. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seen reports regarding 'sale' of wives, through touts or otherwise, in Murshidabad district for being taken to Jedah;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Facts are being ascertained. The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

[Translation]

Purchase of Sugarcane

588. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the purchase of Sugarcane by the Mills in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Jaunpur and Bhadohi districts;

(b) the quantity of cane purchased upto January, 1997 through various purchasing centres as against the targets fixed therefor;

(c) the reasons for low purchasing of cane as compared to the prescribed targets; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target prescribed for the purchase of cane and the facilities being provided to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Ban on Use of Pesticides

589. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether banned toxic pesticides like ENDOSULFAN is freely available in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this pesticide is being marketed in India under as many as 48 brand names;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to ban its use ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The use of Endosulfan is not banned in India and therefore, it is freely available.

(c) and (d) Since there is no ban on use of Endosulfan, therefore, it is freely marketed in India under different brand names.

(e) Reviewing the use of pesticides is a continuous process. The Government had constituted an Export Committee in 1989 to review the use of 14 pesticides including Endosulfan. After review it was decided to continue its use.

Sealing of Assam Border

590. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to seal the international border adjoining Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the progress made so far in erection of the barbed wire fencing on the border of Assam facing Bangladesh; and

(e) the time by which the barbed wire fencing is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) A project to construct border roads and fence along sensitive stretches of Indo-Bangladesh border has been taken up with a view to preventing infiltration of foreign nationals and to curb trans-border crimes. This includes construction of 192 kms. of roads and 158 kms. of fence in the Indo-Bangladesh border adjoining Assam.

2. 116.59 kms. of border roads and 125.54 kms. of fence has been constructed upto 31.12.96. The work is likely to be completed by the end of 1998.

Depletion of Mandarin Oranges

591. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that Mandarin Oranges in Sikkim and Darjiling hills are under depletion owing to a disease;

(b) whether the ICAR Unit located in Sikkim has done any research on this disease;

(c) whether the Government have received any

request for rejuvenation of depleted orange orchards of Sikkim;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has suggested a package of practices for rejuvenating declined mandar in orchards to minimise the incidence.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, Government of India is providing assistance for rejuvenation of old orchards which includes citrus under the scheme on integrated development of temperate, tropical and arid zone fruits. So far, Rs. 44.17 lakh has been released during VIIIth Plan to Sikkim under the Scheme.

Floriculture Centre in Andhra Pradesh

592. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to sanction a model floriculture centre at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction;

(c) the number of sanctions issued for foreign collaboration for floriculture during 1996-97; and

(d) the time by which model floriculture centre is likely to be sanctioned in Hyderabad ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The Government of India has sanctioned a model floriculture centre for Andhra Pradesh in March, 1996 and also released Rs. 40 lakhs out of a total cost of Rs. 52.50 lakhs for the centre. Location of the centre in the state is to be decided by the State Government.

(c) Eighteen (18) sanctions for foreign collaborations for floriculture have been issued during the period from 1st April, 1996 to 15th February 1997.

Illegal Funds from Foreign Countries

593. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :