

[Translation]

Study on Floriculture

*200. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Export-Import Bank of India on the present position of floriculture and its export feasibility in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove major hurdles mentioned in the report to encourage floriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Report of the study conducted by Export Import (EXIM) Bank of India to review the current status and future potential of Indian Floriculture Industry and to assess and analyse the same with particular reference to export market has not been presented to the Ministry of Agriculture. However, a Report titled "Floriculture : A Sector Study", published by the EXIM Bank of India, presented a detailed analysis of the sector including strategies for developing floriculture exports. Some of the problems needing Government interventions include: creation of dedicated facilities for handling of perishables; streamlining of procedures at the airports; import of chemicals for plant protection; simplification of plant quarantine procedures; and creation of infrastructure for marketing.

(c) The Report has not been presented to Ministry of Agriculture. However, the steps taken by the Government of India to improve the production and exports of floriculture products as well as to address the problems mentioned in the Report are as follows :

- (i) Ministry of Agriculture implemented a Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture with an outlay of Rs. 14.29 crores in all the States/UTs. of the country during the Eighth Plan. Major emphasis was on providing quality planting material; training on production and post-harvest management ; and on area expansion. The Scheme is likely to be continued during the Ninth Plan period.
- (ii) National Horticulture Board, Ministry of Agriculture, provides a soft loan of upto rupees one crore to integrated projects on production and post harvest management including marketing with focus on exports. During the Eighth Plan period Rs. 52.58 crores were sanctioned for assisting 61 projects on floriculture located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- (iii) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) (Ministry of

Commerce) is assisting in setting up facilities for separate handling of export cargo of perishable items at Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore airports.

- (iv) Wholesale market-cum-auction centres are planned to be set up by APEDA at 5 major cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai and Bangalore.
- (v) APEDA is implementing a UNDP assisted project on floriculture aimed at achieving an expansion of the cut flower export sector based on improved production expertise and market knowledge.
- (vi) The Government of India has simplified and streamlined the procedures of plant material imports, particularly for export oriented projects.
- (vii) Import duty on several important equipments etc. required in 100% Export Oriented Units has been waived/reduced.
- (viii) APEDA is implementing schemes for development of infrastructure, packing, marketing (including air freight subsidy) to facilitate exports of floriculture products from the country.
- (ix) The Insecticide Registration Committee of the Government of India has simplified the guidelines for registration of pesticides under Section 9(3B) and for import of technical/formulated material required for use in the floriculture sector.

[English]

Procurement of Chilly

2006. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of chilly during this season in Andhra Pradesh alone and the amount of it procured by the Government and other agencies;

(b) the extent to which the chilly has been exported and is likely to be exported;

(c) whether the price offered to the chilly growers has not been sufficient to meet their expenses involved in the chilly production;

(d) if so, whether a number of chilly growers have committed suicide during April and May this year ; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide remunerative price to the chilly growers of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The production of chillies in Andhra Pradesh was estimated at 4.10 lakh tonnes during the year 1996-97 out of which 17500 MTs of chillies were procured up to 10-6-97 in this season under Market Intervention Scheme.

(b) About 50,000 tonnes of chilly was exported yearly on an average basis in last 2 years. However, a quantity of 11,200 tonnes was exported during April to June, 1997.

(c) to (e) The price of chillies was considerably low in the market during this season from April, 1997, therefore, Government of India considered the proposal of the State Government and implemented Market Intervention scheme for red chillies at an intervention price of Rs. 2250 per quintal under which procurement was made for a quantity of 17500 MTs till 10th June, 1997. The Spices Board is taking various steps to improve export of chillies from the country such as distribution of polythene sheets for drying yards, training for quality improvement and construction of warehouses by farmers associations, societies, state federation and marketing boards.

[Translation]

Fake Visas

2007. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some person travelling to Tehran on fake visas were apprehended in Delhi during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number thereof ;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government so far in this regard ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) According to Delhi Police, no such case was reported during the last six months.

[English]

Sunderbans

2008. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any measures have been taken to check that slush does not spoil the charm of sunderbans area in the West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Iron Ore Mines

2009. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kalta Iron Ore Mines have been close down following the interim judgement of the Supreme Court, rendering 3000 workers jobless ;

(b) whether the proposal for forest clearance for Kalta Mines had been cleared by the Advisory Committee and pending before the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in granting approval for the forest clearance which was cleared by the Advisory Committee; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The proposal of the State Government of Orissa for renewal of mining lease of M/s SAIL, Rourkela for Iron Ore in Barsuan, Kalta region in Bonai sub-division of Sundergarh district has already been approved in principle under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 20.2.1997 for 395.639 ha. of forest land, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The Ministry has also accorded a temporary working permission for nine months over already broken up forest area on 20.2.1997 in respect of the above proposal.

(c) and (d) Since the State Government of Orissa has not furnished the compliance report in respect. of the stipulated conditions, the question of according formal approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the proposal at this stage does not arise.

Bhopal Gas Victims

2010. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided adequate financial assistance to rehabilitate the Bhopal Gas victims; and

(b) the quantum of assistance given and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the financial assistance provided by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for relief and rehabilitation of the Bhopal gas victims, the Government of India has also provided Rs. 243 crores to the State Government for the purpose.