

College of Agriculture Mandsaur, the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic plants (CIMAP) and National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) at Lucknow have done notable work in this area. The office of the Central Bureau of Narcotics has been taking suitable steps to disseminate the results of such studies for the benefit of the opium cultivators in the above areas.

#### Soiled Notes

3146. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has imported a machine from Germany for destroying several mutilated and soiled currency notes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two currency disintegrator and briquetting system have been imported from M/s. Giesecke and Devrient GmbH, Germany which are in operation since December, 1996 at the Reserve Bank of India's New Delhi office. The system is an integrated unit with a capacity of 300 Kgs of currency notes per hour and comprises the following features:

- (i) Electromechanical belt conveyor: This conveys the notes into the granulator.
- (ii) Prescrusher/Granulator: The prescrusher crushes the note bundles into small pieces. They are then granulated into small granules (3mm x 3mm) by means of fixed/moveable knives.
- (iii) Briquetting unit: The granules are then sucked from the granulator through a blower fan and compressed into '2' diameter briquettes by a compression pump.

This method of destroying notes is environment friendly as the process is devoid of any smoke emission.

#### Salt Industries

3147. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:  
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Salt industries functioning in Public Sector in the country;

(b) whether any special efforts are being made to promote the export of salt by increasing its production;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Six salt works are functioning in Public Sector.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The following measures have been initiated to promote export by increasing salt production:-

(i) Salt exports have been exempted from the levy of cess.

(ii) Railway is according 'B' Priority for export of salt by rail.

(iii) Establishment of 100% export oriented units (EOU) is being encouraged.

(iv) Long term and short term measures are taken to improve the salt loading rate at Kandla Port.

(v) Setting up of salt refineries is being encouraged to meet the demand of high grade salt.

[English]

#### Demonstration by All India Gramin Bank Workers

3148. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers and workers of the All India Gramin Bank held country-wide demonstrations on January 28, 1997 to protest against the negative attitude of the Government towards their demands;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Some of the Associations of Officers and Employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), inter-alia, including All India Gramin Bank Workers Organisation and All India Gramin Bank Officers Association have represented against non-implementation of the VIth Bipartite Settlement in favour of RRB employees.

As regards the extension of Sixty Bipartite Agreement between employees, Officers of Commercial Banks and Indian Banks' Association to the employees of RRBs, the matter was taken by some of the RRB employees to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, however did not grant any relief and instead observed that they may seek reliefs available to them under the Industrial disputes Act.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have appointed a three member Committee to examine and suggest the changes in the salary and allowances of the employees of RRBs, which may be considered desirable and feasible. It is expected that the employees will present their view point before the Committee so that it can make considered recommendations on their demands.

#### Turnover of STC

3149. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total business as well as the turnover of the STC is going down;

(b) if so, the figures for each of the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the items traded by the S.T.C. with quantity and amount alongwith the profitability/loss during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by STC in improving its trading capabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The total turnover of STC during each of the last three years is as under:

	(Rs. Crore)
1993-94	1117
1994-95	1861
1995-96	1685

The total turnover during 1995-96 was lower when compared to 1994-95 because of lower exports under countre trade (from Rs. 377 crores to Rs. 201 crores) and lower import sales of sugar (from Rs. 594 crores to Rs. 66 crores).

(c) A statement showing itemwise details of turn-over and profitability of the Corporation during the last three years is annexed.

(d) Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items earlier canalised through STC, the Corporation has reoriented its trading strategies in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and competitive environment in the international market. As a part of diversification of its trade activities in the changed business scenario, STC is laying greater emphasis on developing non-canalised trade by way of:-

- direct buying and selling;
- development of captive supply sources through joint ventures and financial assistance;
- import of edible oils for private trade;
- import of gold and export of gold jewellery.
- sale of edible oils in STC's own brand name in the domestic market;
- strengthening overseas marketing network; and
- development of port infrastructure in the country.

#### STATEMENT

*STC: Turnover and Trading Profit During 1993-94 to 1995-96*

Value: Rs. Crores  
Qty.: 000 MTs in brackets

EXPORT Items	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Sales	T.P.	Sales	T.P.	Sales	T.P.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>NON-CANALISED</b>						
Castor Oil/seeds	-	-	9.79	0.32	29.62	0.22
Jute Goods	2.37	1.14	9.80	0.09	16.17	0.29
Rice	2.60	0.03	18.72	0.67	129.12	1.58
			(22)		(148)	
Tobacco	9.14	0.01	1.94	0.01	3.04	Neg.
			(0.5)			
Coffee	14.01	0.22	23.80	0.24	29.53	0.22
			(3)			
Spices	2.23	0.04	1.75	0.04	1.02	0.01
Tea	17.23	0.64	5.58	0.18	5.24	0.20
			(0.7)			
Extractions	63.25	(-) 3.62	40.40	(-) 2.41	82.10	(-) 0.52
Foodgrains (Wheat)	0.15	0.08	16.07	1.13	19.35	0.16
			(34)			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Others (only Misc. Agri. items)	9.32	0.16	3.41	0.03	4.40	0.01
Natural Rubber	10.35	0.15	-	-	-	-
Cashew	33.36	0.18	46.97	0.22	35.13	0.10
Sugar	43.91	0.44	30.46	0.18	17.34	0.09
			(35)			
Alcohol	4.94	-	-	-	-	-
Sports Goods	4.80	-	6.05	0.01	5.42	-
Textile/RHG/Coir	9.86	0.17	14.63	0.33	21.71	0.33
Consumer Products	8.52	0.12	12.32	0.10	6.59	0.10
Engg./Const. Materials	23.79	0.15	32.51	0.40	54.80	0.62
Chemicals & Drugs	40.37	0.66	39.70	0.71	33.44	0.73
Heat & Marine Products	2.49	0.01	1.05	0.02	1.56	-
Fresh & Processed Foods	11.44	0.13	6.82	0.12	6.49	0.07
Leatherware	44.08	0.48	39.83	0.32	40.72	0.34
Brassware	-	-	2.19	0.01	0.52	0.02
Sub-Total (Non-Canalised)	363.21	1.19	363.79	2.72	543.31	4.57
Off-shore	-	-	65.30	2.91	5.09	0.07
Counter Trade	434.67	1.71	376.53	1.58	201.00	0.92
Total Exports	797.88	2.90	805.62	7.21	749.40	5.56

*STC: Turnover and Trading Profit During 1993-94 to 1995-96 (Contd.)*

IMPORTS	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Sale Value	T.P.	Sale Value	T.P.	Sale Value	T.P.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Edible Oils (Govt. A/C)	60.00	24.41	308.41	19.87	414.33	14.63
Edible Oils (STC A/C)	-	-	-	-	68.51	2.91
Edible Oil (CARE/AID)	108.71	5.90	19.88	0.71	20.21	0.35
					(7)	
Newsprint	36.48	1.55	6.59	0.77	-	(-) 0.01
Fatty Acids	0.69	0.03	0.01	-	0.35	(-) 0.01
Sugar (Govt. A/C)	-	(-) 0.02	594.34	7.28	66.42	1.88
			(471)		(42)	
Fertilizer (Govt. A/C)	-	-	-	-	233.10	1.77
					(309)	
Chemicals & Drugs	9.66	(-) 0.10	0.41	(-) 0.02	0.55	Neg.

Value: Rs. Crores  
Qty.: 000 MTs in brackets

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
General Imports	13.34	0.29	3.25	0.10	4.89	0.83
Agri. Commodities	9.94	0.80	11.25	0.04	5.08	(-) 0.25
			(12)			
Imports for Bhakra	-	-	20.81	0.05	6.33	0.02
Other	0.23	0.05	0.39	0.07	1.42	0.03
Total Imports	239.05	32.91	965.34	28.87	857.19	22.15

*STC: Turnover and Trading Profit During 1993-94 to 1995-96 (Contd.)*

Value: Rs. Crores

DOMESTIC Items	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Sales	T.P.	Sales	T.P.	Sales	T.P.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Edible Oils	51.20	2.65	46.29	0.32	22.80	1.24
Imported Cars	22.91	9.74	28.31	12.87	12.79	6.29
Natural Rubber	0.97	(-) 1.51	-	(-) 2.32	-	(-) 0.03
Thermoplastics	-	-	-	-	0.19	(-) 0.21
HPS Groundnut	2.91	0.05	-	-	-	-
Tea	-	-	8.02	0.30	8.53	0.25
Pulses	-	-	4.30	0.30	28.21	0.22
Gift consignment	0.98	0.02	2.77	0.04	1.05	0.02
Others	0.80	-	0.31	0.03	4.63	0.10
Total Domestic	79.77	10.95	90.00	11.54	78.20	7.88
Total Turnover	1116.70	46.76	1860.96	47.62	1684.79	35.59

T.P.: Trading Profit

- Note: 1. The accounts of the Corporation are prepared as per standard Accounting Policy. As such, profitability figures given above represent the gross trading profit earned by the Corporation in respect of various items. The interest misc. income and overheads are credited/debited for the Corporation as a whole in the profit and Loss Account.
2. The figures are based on duly audited trading accounts of branches and various accounting sections in the Corporate office.
3. Turnover and Trading profit in respect of the business handled by the erstwhile Trade Development Cells of STC have been clubbed in the respective items.

**Cloth for Masses**

3150. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTC or any other cloth mill in the country produces textiles which the masses are capable of buying:

(b) the range of textiles and the prices at which these are available for the poor masses of the country;

(c) whether any incentive or subsidy is given to cloth mills to produce cheap and durable quality of cloth for use by the poor and economically weaker sections of the society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):  
(a) to (d) In the mill sector only NTC mills are producing controlled cloth at subsidised rates. The range of textiles produced by NTC and the current prices are as follows: