

12.04 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1988, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th November, 1988."

WAREHOUSING CORPORATIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

As Passed by Rajya Sabha

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: ALLOCATION OF
IMPORTED EDIBLE OILS TO VANASPATI
INDUSTRY

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): I rise to make a statement on the future policy about the allocation of imported edible oils to the vanaspati industry.

It has been the consistent policy of the Government to ensure the availability of vanaspati at reasonable prices throughout

the country. Unfortunately, due to the drought conditions prevailing in the country during the last three years, the Government resorted to the import of large quantities of edible oils, of which some quantities were released to the vanaspati industry at varying percentage from time to time but the major share was allocated to States/UTs for distribution through the Public Distribution System.

Presently the vanaspati industry is permitted to use 100% indigenous oil and in lieu thereof they are allocated 40% imported edible oil at the normal rate of Rs. 15,000/- per MT and 40% at the commercial rate of Rs. 19,000/- per MT wherein the sales tax and road freight charges, etc. are reimbursed. This is being done to ensure the availability of vanaspati an essential commodity at uniform consumer prices throughout the country, which is presently Rs. 350/- per tin of 15 kg. (exclusive of local taxes). As regards the usage of indigenous oils by the vanaspati industry, the manufacturers are precluded from using traditional oils like expeller groundnut and mustared oil, so as to ensure their easy availability for direct consumption but have all along been encouraged to make maximum use of non-traditional oils and minor oils of tree and forest origin.

The Hon'ble Members will be pleased to know that this year because of the anticipated bumper crop of oilseeds throughout the country, the Government has reviewed the existing policy about the allocation of imported oils to the vanaspati industry with the twin objective of enabling the farmers to get attractive prices for their produce as also to reduce the dependance on imported oils, thereby saving precious foreign exchange. It has now been decided by the Government to allocate imported oils to the vanaspati industry at the open window rate of Rs. 19,000/- per MT i.e. without any reimbursement of freight, sales tax, etc. The new policy would be effective from 1st December, 1988.

To enlarge the oil basket for the vanaspati industry, the usage of solvent extracted groundnut and sesame oil have also been permitted in the manufacture of vanaspati.