

(b) The free allowance for passengers coming from Sri Lanka and Maldives was reduced as it was being misused due to the low travel cost. No free allowance is available to passengers coming from Nepal. The comparatively high travel cost to other countries would reduce the scope for such traffic. The rules are meant for bonafide baggage only and the Customs are even now empowered to intercept carriers and impound their goods. Lack of adequate facilities at airports and anxiety not to cause inconvenience to bonafide passengers have been preventing the airport customs from enforcing the restrictions on carriers, but with the build up of new terminals the customs are increasingly enabled to be more effective in this field.

Import of Synthetic Rubber

*165. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not canalising the import of synthetic rubber as has been done in the case of natural rubber;

(b) whether the import of synthetic rubber under Open General Licences has resulted in the dumping of the same by Taiwan, Japan and South Korea; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such dumping of synthetic rubber by foreign countries at throw away prices ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Canalisation is resorted to either for reasons of Government policy on account of sensitivity of item involved e.g. edible oils, or for sound commercial reasons i.e. to have better terms of trade because of bulk buying to have price advantage or where it is considered necessary to regulate and monitor the imports. The Government has considered it advisable not to canalise synthetic rubber.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Decline in Exports by STC

*167. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the principal items being exported by the State Trading Corporation and the total value of the export made by the State Trading Corporation during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(b) whether there is a decline in the exports made by the State Trading Corporation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the target fixed for the year 1985-86 and the amount of export made till date; and

(e) the steps being taken to increase the exports and to achieve the targets fixed for the year 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Principal items of export of STC are : Jute Goods, Coffee, Tobacco, Tea, Castor Oil, Leather and Leather products including Footwear and its components, Cotton textile, and Readymade garments, Sugar and Molasses and Opium. Export during 1983-84 and 1984-85 by STC were Rs. 796 crores and Rs. 720 crores respectively.

(b) and (c). Export by STC during 1983-84 increased by 26 per cent over 1982-83. In 1984-85 export by STC declined due to sharp decline in export of sugar during the year and decanalisation of Shellac/Seedlac.

(d) and (e). Target for export by STC for 1985-86 is Rs. 716 crores. Export during April '85—Oct' 85 have amounted to Rs. 125 crores. Following steps have been taken by STC to achieve the target fixed for 1985-86 :

(i) Supply base is being strengthened by enrolling reputed manufacturers and suppliers.

(ii) Buying power of STC is being used to maximise exports through counter-trade deals.