

and distribution of nutmeg seedlings to the growers. In addition, under the Package Programme on spices, demonstration plots of nutmeg are maintained under the Scheme.

Promoting the Export of Kashmiri Apples

*285. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Kashmiri apples of various varieties do not find sizable market within the country ;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the production of apples has been increasing ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose ways and means to help promoting export of apples especially to Gulf Countries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Government have no specific information about any major difficulty in marketing Kashmiri apples of various varieties in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To encourage export of apples, cash compensatory support @ 18% on f.o.b. value on export of apples has been allowed. Besides, replenishment licence @ 10% on f.o.b. value of exports is admissible against export of apples. Duty drawback on packing material for export of apples is also admissible.

Working of Non-Nationalised Textile Mills in Bombay

*286. SHRI R.R. BHOLE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) how many more textile mills in Bombay, other than the 13 taken over, are not working or working only with nominal number of workers ;

(b) whether Government will take over

those mills ; and

(c) the hurdle in running some of the Mills as a Cooperative sector in Bombay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) According to the information available with Government, two cotton textile undertakings of Bombay, which are not among the 13 undertakings taken over by the Government in October, 1983, were lying closed as on 28th February, 1984. On the same date three privately managed mills were working with less than 50% of their pre-strike attendance.

(b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) There was only one proposal to run one of these units through Workers Cooperative Society, which did not fructify. Liquidation proceedings regarding this mill are pending in the Court.

Export of Semi-precious Stones

*287. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names and details of countries importing semi-precious stones from India ;

(b) whether Government propose to relax and improve the existing rules to encourage more export of semi-precious stones ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Semi-precious stones are exported from India mostly to the following countries :

USA, Japan, West Germany, Hong Kong, France, Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Thailand, Newzealand, UK, Netherlands, Singapore.

(b) and (c). Export of semi-precious