

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I have got information in respect of tobacco and tobacco manufactures. About the other items, I would require separate notice.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : The hon. Minister, while stating the names of the countries to which unmanufactured tobacco was exported, mentioned also Bangladesh. The people of Bangladesh are very much fond of Dinhat tobacco which is grown in the Cooch-Bihar district of West Bengal. In view of that fact, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any special cell or proper coordination to collect this particular variety of tobacco which is liked by the people of Bangladesh, and if not, whether, through the Tobacco Development Board, he is going to make certain special arrangements for the bulk purchase of tobacco from the growers at a reasonable price.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Government make all efforts for increasing the export of all varieties of tobacco including that in which Bangladesh is interested. For that purpose the Tobacco Board has been set up and particularly for Virginia tobacco and flue-cured tobacco various measures have been taken for increasing the export. Various incentives are also given for purposes of dry-curing, for purchase of machines, laboratory equipments, packages and so on, and we are trying to have this according to the demands of the external markets. There has been an EEC team which suggested certain agricultural practices regarding various things which we are attempting to follow.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI : I would like to know whether this figure includes cigarettes. Whether it includes or not, can you give a break-up of the quantities exported by different firms

because manufactured tobacco is a monopoly of three or four big firms? Has he got the figure now?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I am sorry. I do not have the break-up figures now.

SHRI P VENKATASUBBAIAH : Andhra Pradesh is the greatest producer of Virginia tobacco. Since the Tobacco Board has been formed, does the Government propose to canalise export of tobacco through the Tobacco Board or whether another alternative arrangements are being made. Instead of many firms exporting the same thing are the thinking of canalising export through STC or any other Government of India undertaking?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Government has no intention to canalise the export of tobacco. Tobacco Board will advise Government on the minimum price of export of tobacco; it will have an eye on the markets and advise the Government in the context of increase of exports.

Import of Copper and Zinc

*145. **SHRI M.C. DAGA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to stop imports of Copper and Zinc in view of tremendous indigenous production of these metals; and

(b) how much quantity of Copper and Zinc is lying at present in godowns of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) M.M.F.C. has in stock sufficient quantities of these metals to service known requirements of the industry. The position is kept constantly under review and corrective steps are taken as and when necessary.

श्री मूच चन्द्र शर्मा : अध्यक्ष जी, बड़ा संतोषजनक जवाब थाया है इसलिए प्रश्न पैदा होता है कि हमारे देश में कितने जिंक और कितने कापर की माज या 1974-75 में जरूरत थी ? इसका आपने कितना इन्वोर्ट किया और कितनी कीमत दी ?

PROF. D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Domestic demand projection for copper for 1976-77 is of the order of 55,000 metric tonnes.

Production is of the order of 42,000 M.T. So far as zinc is concerned, the estimated requirement is 80,000 M.T. and indigenous production is 35,000 M.T.

So far as the price part is concerned, the C.I.A. price of copper wire bar is 14,120 and of the copper cathodes is 13,740 per M.T. For the zinc high grade, the C.I.A. price is 7,255 and the price of special high grade is 7,355. The release price is higher for the actual users. The copper release price is 27,450 per M.T. and for the copper cathodes it is 26,750 per M.T. As regards zinc, for the actual users, the price of per M.T. high grade zinc is Rs. 13,935 and it is Rs. 14,085 for the special grade. The difference between the C.I.A. price and the actual price is different to a great extent. It is because our domestic production and our imported goods price are kept at par and also because of the high tax incidence on the imported non-ferrous metals like copper and zinc.

श्री मूच चन्द्र शर्मा : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि एन एम टी सी के गोडाउन

में माज की तारीख में कितना जिंक है और कितने कापर है और वह वहाँ कब से रखा हुआ है तथा आपने उनको किस भाव खरीदा था और माज किस भाव दे रहे हैं ?

MR. SPEAKER : I think this is part (b) of the question.

PROF. D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I think I have already answered this part of the question, that is, at what price—C.I.A. price—we have purchased and the price at which we are selling and why is there a difference. I have already answered that question.

I have already answered second part of the question. For first part, I have the figures. But, I shall submit for your consideration that the declaration of our stock position will not be in the commercial interest of the nation because it is susceptible to speculation.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramsahay Pandey.

SHRI M.C. DAGA : I want to know one thing.

MR. SPEAKER : No more question.

SHRI R.S. PANDEY : How many industries in our country in the public and private sectors are producing zinc? May I know whether there is any application pending for the expansion of the zinc industry?

PROF. D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I have indicated the units and quantity of zinc produced. Expansion is not with our Ministry. It goes to the Industries Development Ministry.

Export of Tea to Pakijtan

*146. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the leading tea companies in Calcutta have received inquiries