

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is nothing more in that. You can send your suggestions to them. Let us go to the next question.

SUSPENSION OF ROSE EXPORTS BY S.T.C.

*509. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suspension of rose exports by State Trading Corporation has badly hit the trade and rose growers in the country this season when they were ready to embark upon rose marketing abroad in a big way; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the suspension of rose exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) & (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The S.T.C. had taken up export of roses on experimental basis and as it was uneconomical, it has since been given up.

(b) The reasons for discontinuing export of roses are as follows:—

- (i) inadequate availability of export quality roses at the required time.
- (ii) fast changing varietal preferences of the buyers in the importing countries.
- (iii) domestic demand being different from the export markets demand, limiting the expansion of area for cultivation of roses for export.
- (iv) Keen competition from other exporting countries such as Israel and Egypt who are nearer the importing countries and have established buyer-seller relationship.
- (v) preference of the buyers for glass house cultivated roses as compared to the open field roses which have thicker carved stem, more thorns and dark green foliage.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: Rose is our proud heritage of love and blessings of our great and revered leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The export of roses carries the message of goodwill with sweet fragrance to

foreign countries. We have also got hundreds of agriculturists who were encouraged to take up to rose-farming. Rose growing areas were called scented gardens but they are now reduced to deserted symmetries.

In the circumstances, I would like to know, as the hon. Minister said that an experiment is going on, from him in how of the areas does the S.T.C. experiment? What is the expenditure incurred for the cold-storage, packing and chilling plants etc. and what was the investment made by the agriculturists as they were encouraged and initiated by the STC to grow roses?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: In the matter of exports of roses, the S.T.C. tried to export them to the Western countries as they had preference for the roses. We tried to do it for nearly three years. But, we were incurring heavy losses because of the long distance involved as also the cost of packing, air-freight, handling and transport expenses etc. involved. Cumulatively, we find that in the course of three years' experiment that the S.T.C. had undertaken that it was not an uneconomical proposition. I would like to tell him that the rose is not a channelised item and so, the agriculturists are free to export them. But, the problem that we are facing with is stiff competition from the countries which are nearer to the buying countries. This does not justify export of roses.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: But, the statement says that there is keen competition from other exporting countries like Israel and Egypt. Now, in the changed circumstances as a result of war between Egypt and Israel, the rose plantation had gone down there while in Chatrapur and Haryana and other parts of Maharashtra—i.e. onvala—the rose plantation has gone up. At the initiative of the S.T.C. these agriculturists were encouraged to invest on the rose plantation. Therefore, I would like to know whether the S.T.C. would review the position and re-start the export of roses thereby helping the agriculturists who have been ruined.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Sir, we have no information that due to the crisis in the Middle-east, the production and cultivation of roses in Egypt or Israel has come down. But, Sir, the problem, as I have explained earlier, is this. The S.T.C. tried their level

best in the past three years to go ahead with the experiment. The net result is this, I am prepared to read out the figures. In 1970-71, we exported 10 dozens of roses the loss for which was Rs. 2,583; in 1971-72, we exported 205 dozens of roses the loss for which was Rs. 6,826; in 1972-73 we again tried to export 612 dozens the loss for which was Rs. 11,000. So, over a period of three years, we found that in spite of our best efforts, due to sheer intrinsic nature of the buying countries as well as the selling countries and the long distance involved as also the expenses for packing etc. we could not continue the exports.

SHRI K. GOPAL : Mr. Deputy Spesker, Sir, in the statement under (b) one of the reasons for discontinuing export of roses is because of the fast changing varietal preferences of the buyers in the importing countries.

As far as I know there is only one such varietal preference of roses with colours. Roses do not change the colours as many of us do. I would like to know how this could be one of the reasons for discontinuing the export of roses.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is time for you to change ?

SHRI K. GOPAL : Another reason for this, according to him, is the domestic demand being different from the export markets demand, limiting the expansion of area for cultivation of roses for export. In this connection, I would like to know from him whether steps have been taken by the S.T.C. to see that we now go in a big way for the cultivation of roses so that in future, the Ministry may consider favourably about the export of roses.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I may reiterate that the S.T.C. tried on an experimental basis the export of roses but they found it was not economically feasible. This item is not a channelised item and the agriculturists and the growers are free to export if they could meet high expenses involved.

IMPORT OF ROUGH BLANKS

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*510. **SHRI S. N. MISRA :**

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, takes unusually

long time to clear the release orders issued by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (CLA), New Delhi for the import of rough blanks for the manufacture of optical lenses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to expedite clearance of the release orders ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). There is no delay in servicing Release Orders in cases where the indents received from the parties are complete.

(c) A proforma has been devised in which the release order holders have to indicate technical details of their requirements which helps in speedy clearance of release orders by the canalising agency. Proposals to introduce further simplification in procedure are under consideration.

ENQUIRY CONDUCTED BY R.B.I. REGARDING RECOVERY OF CANCELLED NOTES

*512. **SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :**
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report of the departmental inquiry initiated by Reserve Bank of India regarding the circumstances leading to the reported recovery of cancelled notes, has been submitted;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, how long would it take to finalise the inquiry report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) to (c). The inquiry is still in progress and is likely to be completed shortly.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : उपाध्यक्ष, महोदय, बरामद विषये गये रहे नोटों की संख्या कितनी है, इन नोटों को किन लोगों ने बरामद किया, इसकी जांच का काम कब से चल रहा है, विलम्ब होने के कारण क्या है और कौन लोग इसकी जांच कर रहे हैं ।

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The quantity or value of cancelled notes which was found