

[*Translation*]

Export of Oilseeds

1320. SHRIPHOOLCHAND VERMA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is likelihood of big increase in the production of oilseeds in the country this year;

(b) whether the Government propose to ban the export of oilseeds keeping in view the increasing demand of edible oils in the country; and

(c) if so, the time by which decision in this regard is likely to be taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) There has been a considerable spurt in soybean, sunflower and castor production. The prospects of rapeseed mustard are extremely favourable. Groundnut production is likely to be less than last year.

(b) and (c). The estimated exports of oilseeds during April-October, 1990 were:

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Quantity (Tonnes)</i>	<i>Value (Rs. crores)</i>
1	2	3
Sesamum	21600	32.78
HPS Groundnut	5659	6.61
Niger Seed	6920	8.40

HPS Groundnut and Sesamum seeds are high value export items. The current realisations enable the import of six times the quantity of edible oil lost in the export of these seeds. A negligible quantity of niger seed is exported as bird feed. These exports have not significantly affected the availability of preferred oils within the country. On the other hand, the exports have enabled the import of edible oil for supplementing domestic supply. The question of banning these exports does not, therefore, arise.

Utilisation of Irrigation Potential

1321. SHRIPHOOLCHAND VERMA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Irrigation mostly on paper" appearing in the Statesman dated 19 October, 1990;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the available irrigation potential is not being fully utilised;

(c) the total irrigation potential generated at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan and the extent to which this has been utilised;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any time-bound action plan to ensure optimum utilisation of irrigation potential; and