

varieties to both quota and non-quota countries.

3. For cotton textiles, Government's assistance through cash compensatory support is provided by way of contribution to export promotion fund of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation, which announces the rates of cash assistance for different items of cotton textiles. For cotton handloom fabrics and cotton handloom made-ups, the announcement is also made by the Handloom Export Promotion Council. While announcing the cash assistance rates for different items of cotton textiles for the year 1978-79, the Indian Cotton Mills Federation had made it clear in their circular that the grant of export assistance was subject to the fulfilment of conditions that might be laid down for the purpose from time to time. Moreover, it was made clear that the circular was being issued on the understanding that no binding obligation of any nature was to be cast upon the Federation.

#### Indifferent Handling of Cargo

\*1004. CH. HARI RAM MAKKASAR GODARA;  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N.  
PATIL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news report in the *Indian Express* of April 4, 1979 under the heading 'AI's indifferent handling of cargo'; and

(b) his reaction to the matter and steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to sudden change in the procedure introduced by Customs on 1-4-1979, on experimental basis, there was some confusion in handling the cargo. A proper procedure has since been laid down and no delays are being experienced on this score now.

#### Talks with South Korea for Export of Agricultural Products

\*1005. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state

(a) whether talks were held recently in New Delhi between India and South Korea for export of agricultural products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b). There have been no official level talks between the two countries recently in New Delhi, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh visited Seoul from 24 to 27 August 1978. Ambassador of South Korea in New Delhi also held informal discussions with STC in New Delhi in October 1978. These discussions included the possibilities of export from India to South Korea of agricultural commodities.

#### Steps taken to overcome Shortage of Sulphur

\*1006 SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada also has stopped supply of Sulphur to M.M.T.C.;

(b) what other countries have stopped or reduced sulphur supplies; and

(c) the impact of it on sulphur supplies and steps taken to overcome the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b). Canada, Iran, Poland, USSR and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have not made supplies to