

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): There is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to have one Corporation for edible oils and oil seeds. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: Our previous experience has been that all the edible oil imported has not arrived in time. The main demand for edible oil comes in the marriage season. May I know what steps the Government is taking to see that these edible oils which are being imported are brought here before the marriage season starts so that unnecessary profiteering does not take place in the country?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Government is well aware of the marriage season and also various festivals in the country. Therefore, it is quite in advance of the starting of the year that the oil plan is prepared for the country. An assessment of the crop is made and an assessment is also made as to what would be the production in the country, what would be the requirements of the country and what is the gap. On that basis, in a planned manner, we are having our imports. That is why you see that the prices of oils in the country have remained stabilised.

Import of Raw Opium by Multinationals of U.S. and U.K. from India

*176. DR. BIJOY MONDAL:

SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two multinationals of U.S. and U.K. and few other agencies are importing nearly 25 tonnes of raw opium and its derivatives like morphine and heroin

from India in excess of their actual consumption for circulation and sale in clandestine drug market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the price of this opium in India is Rupees one thousand per kg. and it fetches nearly Rupees 55 thousand in the U.S. drug market;

(c) whether Government propose to check this malpractice and also to smash this racket; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) No, Sir. India exports opium to three farms each in U.S.A. and U.K. for medicinal purposes only and on the basis of import authorisations issued by the respective Government of these countries. The total quantity of opium exported to these two countries in the year 1978 was 457 tonnes. No morphine or heroin was exported from India. Under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, the concerned countries are required to limit their imports of opium as well other narcotic drugs to their estimated requirements as approved by the International Narcotics Control Board and also keep strict controls to ensure that these drugs are actually utilised for medicinal purpose only, and are not diverted to illicit channels.

(b) Our present export price of opium is US \$ 6 per unit of anhydrous morphine per kg. of opium (viz., about US \$ 60 per kg. of opium). We are however not aware of price of opium in the illicit drug market in the U.S.A.

(c) and (d). In view of replies to (a) and (b), above, no action is called for on our part.

DR. BIJOY MONDAL: We find that in this country and in the international market, illegal transaction in opium is going on on a considerable scale. May I know from the Minister whether there is some illegal involvement of these firms in this illegal dealing?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: According to the present procedures, whatever authorisations the respective Governments have given to these particular firms or dealers, we have allotted this opium. So far as illicit trafficking in drugs is concerned, that is not so much of a problem here in India as it is in the U.S.A., U.K. or other western countries. We are keeping a strict watch on these things and we are working under the International Narcotics Control Board.

This year our production is more than 1,600 tonnes. We have allotted about 1,200 tonnes. The rest is lying with us. According to the Convention and according to the guidelines, this year we have reduced our area of opium cultivation from 64,000 hectares to 57,000 hectares on account of less demand.

DR. BIJOY MONDAL: Is the price paid to the growers of opium adequate in the context of the price in other countries?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: So far as the price paid to the growers is concerned, if I remember aright last year we increased it by 10 per cent, but it is based on the minimum yield that they give to us. Suppose for a hectare, he gives 25 kg. opium, he gets Rs. 130 but if he gives 45 kg. for the same hectare, he gets at the rate of Rs. 200. So, there is a slab system. I think Government has already increased the price to the grower by 10 per cent last year.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Boosting of Exports

*164. **SHRI DURGA CHAND:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch a drive to

involve the State Governments and their agencies in exports;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether each State Government propose to prepare a position paper on export potential and export oriented production facilities;

(d) whether the Central Government propose to take a follow up action by sending teams to different States for finalizing export plans;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what incentives, financial and others are proposed to be given to States for boosting exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (**SHRI ARIF BEG**): (a) to (f). In November, 1978, a series of meetings were held with the Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards and other concerned Ministries with a view to assessing the export trends and for seeing how best a massive export drive could be launched. It was felt that a closer co-ordination between the Centre and the State Governments was necessary in our export efforts. Accordingly, a letter was sent to all the State Chief Ministers/Lt. Governors and Chief Commissioners of Union Territories to advise their officials to prepare a 'Position Paper' on the export potential of various commodities and products in their State with specific reference to the support required for increasing exports and the removal of difficulties and impediments.

This is also one of the two major issues discussed at a conference of Chief Ministers convened in New Delhi on the 5th of January, 1979. The various State Governments welcomed the approach of the Centre for increasing the involvement of the States in the export effort, and offered to cooperate fully in this regard.