

propose to consider special incentives for such exports ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):**

(a) to (c) It is the policy of Government to accord special emphasis to the development of exports of agricultural products which about in the North Eastern Region. In order to provide export outlets, efforts are being undertaken in cooperation with the North Eastern Region Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC), the Spices Export Promotion Council and the State Governments. Some special incentives on freight rates already exist. Periodic reviews of the adequacy of the existing institutional and infrastructural facilities and incentives and the need to augment them are undertaken.

#### Meeting to Discuss the Move Towards Decanalising Steel

314. **SHRI R. ANNANAMBI :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Executives Federation of India (SEFI) has requested Government to call for a meeting of the consumer's representatives, manufacturers and the Federation to discuss the move towards decanalising steel; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Steel Executives Federation of India have suggested that a decision to decanalise import of steel should be taken after discussions with steel consumers, manufacturers and the Federation. The Federation suggests that a constructive approach would be to remove the bottlenecks and deficiencies from the existing system rather than completely do away with the system of canalised imports of steel. The Federation feels that a decision taken in early 1981 to decanalise a large number of steel items had led to a glut in the market and producers carried large stocks because the system of OGL

imports leaves loopholes under which non.OGL imports can take place.

Government are seized of the problem and after consideration of the various suggestions received, the policy for steel imports for 1985-86 will be announced by the Ministry of Commerce.

#### Representation from Council for Leather Exports for Value-Added Products

315. **SHRI R. ANNANAMBI :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council for Leather Exports has represented to Government that the export of value-added products must be encouraged by giving a higher Cash Compensatory Support for these keeping in view their actual cost of production and various taxes attracted by the inputs and other relevant factors; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):**

(a) and (b) The Council for Leather Exports, Madras has submitted data for fixation of the rates of Cash Compensatory Support on exports of finished leather products. Government has not yet taken a view in the matter.

#### Measures to Save Jute Industry in West Bengal

316. **SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the jute industry in West Bengal is in shambles due to large-scale closure and lay-off; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether some of the trade unions have pressed the Union Government to enforce section 10 of the Jute (Control and Licensing) Order of 1961 empowering Government to seize all the jute stocks lying with individual