

Decline in Export of Tobacco

8652. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that it is not only due to competition from Brazil and Zimbabwe that our tobacco exports have declined, but it also due to serious lapses in the quality of tobacco exported to China a few years back by a group of companies;

(b) whether there are any claims of the quality of tobacco exported by the very same group of companies to U.S.S.R. in 1984 and 1985;

(c) if so, the action taken against the erring companies;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the name of companies and the amounts of claims pending against these companies, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Among other reasons, quality complaints led to a fall in exports to China.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Goods Confiscated by Customs Department at Trivandrum Airport

8653. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated value of the goods confiscated by the Customs department at Trivandrum Airport during 1985-86; and

(b) the procedure adopted by the Customs Department for the disposal of these goods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) During the year 1985-86, contraband goods worth Rs. 2.69 crores were confiscated at Trivandrum Airport.

(b) Confiscated consumer goods ripe for disposal (after completion of adjudication, appeal proceedings, etc.) are sold to public through National Consumers' Co-operative Federation, State Civil Supplies Corporations, State Co-operative Federations, Co-operative Societies approved by the Central and State Governments and duly registered under the Co-operative Societies Act; Military/Para Military, Police Canteens and Departmental retail shops, etc. Gold and silver are deposited with the Government of India Mint. Indian and Foreign currencies are deposited with Reserve Bank of India.

Distribution of Subsidised Foodgrains in ITDP Areas

8654. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the quantity of wheat, rice and other assistance provided to Kerala for distribution as subsidised foodgrains to rural families in the Integrated Tribal Development Project areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES ((SHRI A. K. PANJA) : A quantity of 1887 tonnes of wheat and 16227 tonnes of rice was issued by the Food Corporation of India during the period from 1st December, 1985, upto 15th April, 1986, to the Government of Kerala for distribution at specially subsidised rates in the Integrated Tribal Development Project areas. Under the scheme, foodgrains are supplied by the Food Corporation of India at special issue price of Rs. 125/- per quintal of wheat, and Rs. 160/- per quintal of common rice, and the State Government distributes the same to the consumers at Rs. 150/- per quintal of wheat and Rs. 185/- per quintal of common rice.