

Proposal for Dual Prices System for some Essential Commodities

*80. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to extend the dual pricing system to some essential commodities to have greater control over the market; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal and when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration of Government to adopt dual pricing system for any additional essential commodity.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Essential Commodities

*81. SHRI LAKSHMAN MULLICK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to import essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) & (b). Government have been importing essential commodities viz edible oils, cement, newsprint, white printing paper, etc. to meet the requirements of our economy the imports of these commodities are under periodic review and the quantum of imports is decided depending upon the demand and supply position of each commodity in the country at any particular time.

Proposal to create a Free Trade Zone

469. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Minister of Goa has approached the Government of India recently with a proposal of creating a free Trade Zone on the lines of Hong Kong and South Korea;

(b) if so, when and the details of the proposal; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received recently.

(b) & (c). Do not arise.

Request from Maharashtra Government to lift ban on Export of Vegetables

470. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA SADASHIV MORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra have approached Government of India for lifting the ban on export of vegetables and for releasing quota for this purpose; and

(b) if so, whether the ban has been lifted and the quota released as requested by Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The Government of Maharashtra had sought permission to export vegetables as they had undertaken a project for, additional production of vegetables, for export purpose.

(b) A quota of 300 tonnes of vegetables has been allowed to be exported per month by the State Government agency subject to the condition that 85 per cent of each consignment of vegetables for export is taken from out of the additional production undertaken by the State Government and the total exports of vegetables do not exceed 50 per cent of the additional production.

Export of refined Groundnut Oil to West Asian Countries and Iran

471. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDESE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that groundnut is exported to West Asian countries and Iran;

(b) whether there is any demand for refined groundnut oil also in these countries; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to allow the export of refined groundnut oil to these countries instead of groundnut in order to utilise the potential of the refining industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) NAFED has been allowed to export a limited quantity of H.P.S. groundnuts to all permissible destinations including West Asia and Iran. H.P.S. groundnuts are normally used as edible nuts and not for crushing as a source of groundnut oil.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. In view of the shortage of edible oils in the country, Government do not propose to allow export of refined groundnut oil. Imported edible oils are being refined by the refining industry in the country. Export policy of an essential commodity like groundnut oil cannot be

based on the refining potential of the refining industry. It is decided by the availability of groundnut oil in the country as well as the domestic price trends.

Proposal to raise Price of Iron Ore Exported to Japan

472. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the price of Iron ore being exported to Japan;

(b) if so, whether any talks in this regard with officials of the Japan Government were held in recent months; and

(c) if so, the out-come thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c). As a result of discussions between M.M.T.C. and Japanese Steel Mills, a weighted average price increase of 19.35 per cent over the current prices has been secured by MM.T.C. for export of iron ore to Japan during 1980-81.

Discussions between Goan Exporters and Japanese Steel Mills are still in progress.

Shortage of Iron Ore in four Steel Plants

473. SHRI K PRADHANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the country's four steel plants at Bokaro, Durgapur, Burnpur and Rourkela may face acute shortage of iron ore in the near future if the present power crisis affecting the mines at Kiriburu, Gua and Noamati is not solved immediately; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the efforts of Government in this regard?