

(c) the expenditure incurred on each delegation in foreign exchange and in rupees; and

(d) the purpose of each delegation separately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAĞANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Production of Edible Oils

636. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE. Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of edible oils has been reduced during the first quarter of this year (1980);

(b) if so, the details of production thereof during this period; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the production of this item?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). While the figures of production during the first quarter of 1980 are not available, it is a fact that during the year 1979-80, the production of Oilseeds had been adversely affected and according to the current assessment, it was likely to be 7-10 per cent lower than the level in the preceding year which was slightly over 9 million tonnes. Correspondingly, there had been a reduction in the production of edible oils also.

(c) In order to increase the indigenous availability of edible oils, the Government have taken a number of steps to increase the production of edible oilseeds. These include the following:

(i) Raising the productivity per hectare both in irrigated and unirrigated areas through rapid spread of improved technology;

(ii) Increasing the irrigated areas under these crops by exploiting the potential under the command of new irrigation projects;

(iii) Increasing the areas under short duration varieties through catch cropping and inter-cropping;

(iv) Strengthening the seed production programme by augmenting the supply of certified seeds;

(v) Stepping up the coverage under plant protection measures over large areas;

(vi) Provision of subsidy on the cost of certified seed and for plant protection measures;

(vii) Intensification of research efforts;

(viii) Extension of area under non-traditional oilseeds like sunflower, soyabean and oil palm.

(ix) Fixation of support prices and making arrangements for the purchase of the produce in case the prices fall below the support price levels.

An action-plan is in the process of implementation, in conjunction with the State Governments, to significantly enhance the production of oilseeds during the current year 1980-81

Proposal to Liberalise Definition of 'Exports' in FERA

637. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to liberalise the definition of "Export" in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, (FERA); and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.