

(a) whether Government have directed Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling the State Trading Corporation to expeditiously negotiate contracts for export of sugar to fulfil India's 7 lakh tonnes obligation during the year;

(b) if so, whether any contracts have been signed;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) how much sugar has so far been exported and at what rate?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Government have authorised STC to export a minimum quantity of 6 lakh MT of sugar during the sugar year October '81 to September 1982.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Contracts for export of a total quantity of upto 5.11 lakh MT sugar have so far been concluded by STC.

(d) A quantity of 2.20 lakh MT valued at about Rs. 61.29 crores has been shipped upto 20-7-82.

AMENDMENT TO PREVENTION OF SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES ACT (COFEPOSA)

3541. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken a decision to utilise the provision of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act to curb the activities of smugglers and economic offenders more vigorously in spite of Judicial constraints on preventive detentions;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make amendments in the Act to remove the hurdles;

(c) whether this Act which was enacted in 1974 required number of changes; and

(d) what are the new provisions that are being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is presently no proposal for amending the Conservation of Foreign

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

IMPROVEMENT IN DEFENCE PREPAREDNESS

3542. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to improve defence-preparedness in view of Pakistan's hectic buying of sophisticated electronic counter measure equipment like low level mobile radars which would further increase the offensive capability of Pakistan's Armed Forces;

(b) whether Government have made any re-appraisal of our total Defence Plans to counter Pakistan's modernisation of its Air Force; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Government watch all developments impinging on the country's security and initiate appropriate measures from time to time to maintain full defence preparedness. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

PROPOSALS OF N.T.C. TO UPDATE SICK MILLS

3543. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the proposals of the NTC to update the sick mills;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) In order to rejuvenate the nationalised textile mills, NTC has drawn up a corporate plan involving outlay of Rs. 320 crores for modernisation