

Price of groundnut oil in Gujarat and other States

182. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of groundnut oil has soared to an all time high in the State, though Gujarat is one of the main groundnut oil producing States in the country;

(b) whether the same position of groundnut oil obtained in other States;

(c) whether there was a great shortage of groundnut oil also; and

(d) what steps were taken by the Union Government to help the State Government of Gujarat and other States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) to (c). The prices of groundnut oil have increased considerably during the current year in Gujarat and also in other States as a result of the serious shortfall in the total production of groundnut caused by the prevalence of drought conditions in the kharif season in the major producing States. The shortfall in groundnut production has affected the production of groundnut oil.

(d) Steps taken by the Central Government to improve the availability of vegetable oilseeds and oils in the country including augmentation of supplies through import of oilseeds, oils and tallow to the extent feasible; encouraging larger crushing of cottonseed and rice bran and utilisation of their oils; promoting greater utilisation of minor oilseeds of tree origin; restricting the use of groundnut oil and encouraging greater utilisation of other substitute oils in the manufacture of vanaspati and increasing the production of traditional as well as non-traditional oilseeds like soyabean and sunflower seed.

Permission to vanaspati manufacturers in Gujarat to increase quantum of mustard oil and release of rape-seed to them

189. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to permit vanaspati manufacturers in Gujarat to increase the quantum of mustard oil in their products;

(b) if so, what percentage was allowed and to what extent this has helped them;

(c) whether Union Government had also decided to release rape-seed for vanaspati manufacturers; and

(d) if so, to what extent these decisions helped the vanaspati manufacturers to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). The maximum limit of usage of mustard oil in vanaspati was raised from 10 per cent to 15 per cent not only in Gujarat but in all the zones on the 16th May, 1973. This has helped to relieve, to a limited extent, the strain on groundnut and other edible oils ordinarily used in the manufacture of vanaspati, particularly in the Northern and Eastern zones.

(c) and (d). Out of the total imports of 80,000 tonnes of rapeseed, about 33,000 tonnes were released to vanaspati factories. This when crushed into oil and brought into use may help to increase its production to some extent but it would definitely reduce the strain on indigenous oils, which are in short supply.