

and North Africa, West Europe and USA for popularising Indian Spices etc.

**Boost to Agricultural Exports**

2735. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions regarding boosting exporting agricultural produce during the next five years;

(b) if so, whether any concrete plan has been prepared in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Government has been receiving suggestions from various quarters from time to time for boosting agricultural exports. These include a stable policy framework, conscious generation of surpluses for export, establishing backward linkages, providing incentives and assistance of various kinds to exporters, designing better packaging, improving quality control measures, simplifying inspection and certification procedures, improving infrastructural support. The Government has been examining these suggestions and adopting those found feasible. It is a continuous process.

**Reduction in Fertiliser Prices by MMTC**

2736. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation has reduced the fertilizer price upto 10% from the levels prevailing at the end of 1989.

(b) Whether the MMTC propose to sign Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Morocco for export of Indian goods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

(SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) During 1990, MMTC has procured phosphoric acid at prices which are 10.08% lower than average procurement prices during 1989.

(b) and (c) MMTC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Moroccan suppliers of phosphoric acid under which the Moroccan suppliers have assured co-operation in promoting exports of Indian goods worth US \$ 50 million. Detailed discussions have been initiated by the MMTC with the Moroccan suppliers of phosphoric acid to find out ways and means to achieve the objectives and to identify the organisations as well as the specific Indian products.

**Self Sufficiency in Opium Production**

2737. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MEWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of present stocks of opium and its derivatives grown in South Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the present stocks are sufficient for medicinal needs of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps being taken to discourage poppy cultivation by providing attractive incentives;

(e) whether national and international agencies are offering some attractive incentives; and

(f) if so, details thereof including the procedure to be followed by the cultivators for utilising such incentives?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Opium, poppy cultivation for the production of opium is undertaken on account of the Central Government in the traditional poppy growing areas in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The opium stocks are

held in the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works at Ghazipur (U.P.) and Neemuch (M.P.) and separate figures of the same are not maintained growing-area-wise.

The production of opium is mainly export oriented. Some quantity is also used for manufacturing opium derivatives to meet the medicinal needs within the country. While about 80-90 tonnes of opium are utilised to meet the indigenous requirements of opium and its derivatives, the book stock of opium in the Government Factories, as on 1-4-90 was of the order of 2057 M.Ts. which is much more than the quantity of opium required for medical needs of the country.

(d) and (e) The licence for poppy cultivation is granted to traditional poppy cultivators in accordance with the conditions for grant of licence finalised by the Central Government every year. These conditions ensure that dishonest and inefficient cultivators are not granted licence for poppy cultivation. No such proposal to provide incentives to discourage poppy cultivation is being offered at present.

(f) Does not arise.

**Credit Facilities to NDDB for Procurement of Edible Oils**

2738. SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given credit facilities to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for market intervention operations or for procurement of edible oils during the current year.

(b) if so, the details of the amount sanctioned and disbursed to the NDDB by the Reserve Bank of India or any other bank on directive from R.B.I. during 1990 (till June), quarter-wise; and

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India or Government had monitored or observed the implementation of these operations; if so, the benefits accrued to the people by these operations regarding edible oils both in quantity and prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised need-based credit limits to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for purchase of edible oils/oilseeds under Market Intervention Operations (MIO). RBI has made special arrangements for meeting the credit requirements of the NDDB at a concessional rate of interest of 15% per annum. Need-based limits are authorised from time to time on the basis of the projected operations of the NDDB and in the light of its past experience in regard to the actual purchases and utilisation of credit limits. The NDDB at the same time is required to ensure that the credit drawn is not in excess of the value of stocks.

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**Dealing in Central Government securities by Banks**

2739. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to do away with the practice of allowing banks to deal indirectly in the Central Government securities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives likely to be achieved by the decision; and

(d) the impact of the decision on the commercial banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had earlier fixed separate quotas for direct and indirect dealings in Central Government securities for banks depending