

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.