

materials which are occupational health hazards, if not used under controlled conditions.

(b) Although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of U.S.A. issued orders prohibiting future manufacture etc. of almost all asbestos-containing products, this was struck down by the Court of Appeals in 1991 as EPA failed to convince the Court with needed scientific justification to ban asbestos.

(c) Based on a report by the National Institute for Scientific and Medical Research, the French Government is reported to be considering imposition of a ban on use of the cancer-causing insulation fibre w.e.f. 1.1.1997. However, estimate of 2,000 deaths is reported to have been made assuming that out of all the cases of deaths caused by lung cancer, 5.7% are asbestos related cases.

(d) and (e) Use of Blue (Crocidolite) fibre which is considered as toxic and a health hazard has already been banned by the Government. There is no need of banning asbestos as India is using only Waite (Chrysotile) asbestos which contains only about 8-9% of white asbestos fibre and is, therefore, safe in use. A Technical Committee which was constituted in 1994 to undertake a comprehensive study of use of asbestos had recommended use of white fibre under controlled conditions and conforming to all standards prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards. This is insisted upon in the production of asbestos products.

import of Agricultural inputs

2236. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture inputs/latest technology or knowhow are allowed to be imported by exporting agricultural produce;

(b) if not, the restrictions imposed on import of the above;

(c) whether these restrictions would be done away with by Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Capital goods including those required for the agricultural sector, is permitted to be imported on payment of concessional duty @ 15% of c.i.f. value of imported goods or zero duty if the c.i.f. value of capital goods is Rs. 20 crores or more, subject to export of the agricultural product manufactured by the capital goods so imported at the prescribed rate of export obligation, under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme.

Similarly, agricultural inputs for the exports of agricultural products can also be imported without payment of the Customs duty under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) against prescribed export obligation.

सुपर बाजार की प्रचालन लागत

2237. श्री कनक सिंह मोहन सिंह मंगरोला: क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पिछले कुछ वर्षों से सुपर बाजार की प्रचालन लागत में लगातार वृद्धि हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1989-90 से ऐसी वृद्धि का मद-वार, वर्ष-वार और शाखा-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

खाद्य मंत्री और नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) से (ग) सुपर बाजार दिल्ली द्वारा भेजी गई सूचना के अनुसार, सुपर बाजार की संचलानात्मक लागत में निरन्तर वृद्धि होती रही है। इस