

(b) if so, details of the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) A Seven Member Committee set up by the Government to put together the recommendations made by 26 Groups set up in respect of the 34 'Extreme Focus' product groups, has since submitted its report entitled 'Strategy for Export Growth in Extreme Focus Product Groups—An Agenda for Action', which contains a time-bound plan for boosting exports of these items.

(b) The recommendations made in the report relate to time-bound action required with respect to (i) Policy, (ii) Procedures (iii) Infrastructure, and (iv) Institutional mechanism, common across various groups as well as those specific to industry/product groups.

(c) The report is under consideration of the Government.

Activities of Rubber and Cotton Boards

4183. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unlike NDDB and other Boards engagement largely in development, activities, The Rubber, Tea and Coffee! Boards are uncertain of their future as reported in the "Mail" of the 5th July, 1992; and

(b) whether Government propose to convert all such Boards into Developmental Boards on the lines of NDDB Act, 1987 and free it from obligations of production and exports and! the controls of CAG over the consolidated Funds of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI

SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Guidelines for Joint Ventures abroad

4184. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised new guidelines for approval of joint ventures abroad;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and'

(c) if not, by when the new guidelines in this regard are likely to be finalised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) Revision of Guidelines for overseas joint ventures is under consideration.

Import of edible oil from USA

4185. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into an agreement with US for import of soyabean oil from US;

(b) if so, what are the other varieties of edible oils India would be importing during the current financial year and! from which countries; and

(c) what is the total requirement of edible oils in the country and quantities of edible oils India may have to import?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The total requirement of edible oil in the country for the oil year 1991-92 is estimated at 63 lakhs MTs. During this oil year a quantity of 0.95 lakh tonnes of PBD Palmolein has so far been imported. Besides, State Governments have also imported 0.57 lakh tonnes of palmolein directly under a scheme of "Direct Import by States" given by the Government of India. Government of India has decided to import some more quantity of palmolein to meet the PDS demand. Palmolein is generally imported from Malaysia.

Genuineness of the products exported by Multi National Companies

4186. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the products supplied by Multinational Companies are not the same ones which are produced by respective MNCs in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to compel the MNCs to meet their exports obligations by exporting their own products?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Multinational Companies can export products freely as long as these are not in the Negative List of Exports Of the Exports and Import Policy for 1992-97 irrespective of whether the goods have been produced by them or not.

(b) When an export obligation is imposed on Multinational Companies to export products manufactured by them, a commitment is taken by Way of a legal agreement or bond backed with bank guarantee to ensure that they meet such export obligations. In the event of default, punitive provisions of the legal agreement or bond are invoked.

Exports of Software

4187. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COM-MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total softawre export from India during the years 1990-91 and 1991.92;

(b) what steps were taken to reach the target set in accordance with 1987 software policy to export of softwares to the value of Rupees 3000 crores in the year 1990;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the areas of computer softwares India has an edge with its cheap and trained man power if so, the reasons for not achieving this target;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government are exploring new markets for computer softwares in Germany, if so, the quantum of amount likely to earned through such export; and

(e) whether there is a great possibility of export of software from India, if so, what steps Government are taking to boost software exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The total software export from India as per the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council has been as under-

(in Rs. Crores)

Year	Export
1990-91	250
1991-92	503

(b) and (c) The target for software export to the level of Rs. 3000 crores by 1990 depended not only on cheap