

Export of agricultural products. . .

279. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the volume and value of exports of agricultural products during the last two years, year-wise and what is the estimated export thereof during the current financial year;

(b) what are the names of the different items of farm produce exported during the above years and to which countries; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to increase exports of farm products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) According to provisional figures the export of principal agricultural products excluding textiles during 1983-84 and 1984-85 were worth Rs. 2283 crores and Rs. 2355 crores respectively.

(b) The major items of export are, Tea, Coffee, Tobacco, Basmati rice, Spices, Cashew, Castor oil and processed Foods. Agricultural products of India are in demand in different markets abroad which include to this, USSR, Japan the Gulf countries, Europe and USA.

(c) The measures for increasing export of agricultural products include identification of new markets, and their development, strengthening of institutional arrangements and grant of fiscal and other incentives. The States have been requested to organise specially for export.

Directive issued by jute commissioner of India to private jute mills in the matter of purchase of raw jute

280. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Commissioner of India exercising his statutory powers had issued directives in September, 1985 urging private mills to step up purchase of raw jute in such a manner as to have six weeks requirement of raw jute necessary to carry on production in respective mills by the end of September, 1985 and ten weeks requirement by the end of October, 1985;

(b) if so, whether this directive has been carried out by the private jute mills;

(c) if not, which are the jute mills which have violated the directives; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take against those mills which have violated the directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is attached.

Statement

Out of 54 jute mills to whom this Order was served, the position of physical stock level (inclusive of in-transit quantity) built up by them as on 31-10-1985 is as under:—

Raw Jute stocks	No. of Mills
(i) Ten weeks' and above	34
(ii) Six Weeks' and above but below ten weeks.	7
(iii) Five Weeks' and above but below six weeks.	3
(iv) Below five weeks.	7
(v) Reports not received.	3
TOTAL :	54

Of the three defaulting mills at (e) above, two mills had raised inventory close to ten weeks stock level during week ended 26-10-85. Considering the financial difficulty faced by some of the mills, the time limit for bringing up of raw jute stocks up to specified level was extended up to 15-11-85 for which mills were directed to submit further reports. As a punitive measure, Jute Commissioner debarred 15 defaulting mills from B. Twill quota allocation for the month of November, 1985. Withholding of B. Twill quota allocation has had a salutary effect and there has recently been a perceptible improvement in stock-building efforts by defaulting mills. Recently, the staff of Jute Commissioner physically verified the stock reports of 6 mills for checking accuracy thereof and in all these cases the reports have been found to be in order. The Jute Commissioner is keeping a continuous watch over the situation.

Export of tea

281. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made as to why Indian tea export target is lagging behind Sri Lanka and Kenya in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the details of the said assessment; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) India continues to be the largest exporter of tea. Exports of tea from India, Sri Lanka and Kenya during the past three years are indicated below:—

(Figures in Million Kgs.)

Year	India	Sri Lanka	Kenya
1982	189.90	181.14	79.80
1983	208.47	157.9	100.65
1984	214.73	204.23	91.20

(c) Does not arise.

Security arrangements in banks

282. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any follow-up action has been initiated on the basis of the security arrangements in different banks made by the Delhi Police recently;

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

(c) if no, follow-up action has been initiated, what are the reasons therefor despite regular bank robberies in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A meeting of the Local Heads of the public sector banks in Delhi, the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Commissioner of Police for Delhi, was held on 7th October, 1985 to discuss the question of strengthening the security arrangements in banks' branches in Delhi. The following instructions to banks were reiterated:—

- (1) to observe weekly off days in branches coinciding with the closing day of the market in the area;
- (2) each branch should have an armed security guard;