

में छोटे पैकरों से 5,000 मेट्रिक टन तम्बाकू खरीदे जाने की सिफारिश भी की थी ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो छोटे पैकरों से तम्बाकू की खरीद के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

Purchase of tobacco from small packers

16. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the meeting of Advisory Committee held on the 7th October, 1978, it was announced that State Trading Corporation would purchase about 4,000 metric tonnes of tobacco from small packers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Tobacco Board in its proposal on the 18th October, 1978 had also recommended the purchase of 5,000 metric tonnes of tobacco from small packers; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken for the purchase of tobacco from small packers?]

व्यापार तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहायिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरिफ बेग) : (क) 7 अक्टूबर, 1978 को हुई परामर्शदात्री समिति की बैठक में यह बताया गया था कि राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा सरकारी लेखे में कुछ 10,000 मी० टन तम्बाकू की खरीद में से लगभग 3000-4000 मी० टन तम्बाकू अभी खरीदा जाता है। इस पर भी सहमति हुई कि अगर उपजकर्ताओं से कुल प्राप्ति 10,000 मी० टन से कम रहती है तो बाकी की मात्रा राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा छोटे पैकरों से खरीदी जा सकती है।

(ख) जी हां। तम्बाकू बोर्ड ने यह सुझाव दिया था कि सरकारी लेखे में पहले ही खरीदे जा रहे 10,000 मी० टन तम्बाकू के अतिरिक्त छोटे पैकरों और व्यापारियों से 5,000 मी० टन तम्बाकू खरीदा जाए। तथापि, यह सुझाव स्वीकार नहीं किया गया।

(ग) जैसा कि ऊपर (क) में बताया गया है कि राज्य व्यापार निगम छोटे पैकरों से उत बाकी मात्रा ही खरीदारी के लिए कार्यवाही कर रहा है जिसे उपजकर्ताओं से नहीं खरीदा जा सका।

[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) In the meeting of the Consultative Committee held on 7th October, 1978, it was indicated that about 3000-4000 MTs of tobacco is yet to be purchased by the STC out of total purchase of 10,000 MTs of tobacco on Government account. It was also agreed that if the total procurement from the growers fell short of 10,000 MTs, the balance quantity could be purchased from the small packers by the S. T. C.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Tobacco Board had suggested that 5,000 tonnes of tobacco may be purchased from small packers and dsalers, in addition to the 10,000 tonnes already being purchased on Government account. However, r.his proposal was not accepted.

(c) As stated in (a) above, the S. T. C. is taking action to purchase the balance quantity, which could not be purchased from growers, from the small packers.]

Import of soda ash

17. SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR; Will the Minister of COMMERCE

t [] English translation.

AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-import of the soda ash by licence holders its price has increased in the domestic market;

(b) whether any penal action has been taken against the import licence holders for non-utilisation of their licences; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) to (c) Under the Import policy 1978-79, Actual Users (Industrial) could import Soda Ash under Open General Licence up to 31st July, 1978.

From 1st August 1978, the import was canalised through State Trading Corporation, New Delhi, with a facility that eligible Actual Users who had entered into firm contracts/commitments with overseas suppliers before that date, could be allowed direct imports to the extent of such contracts/commitments. There was, however, no compulsion on them to effect such imports.

From 15th January 1979, this item has again been placed on open General Licence for imports by Actual Users (Industrial), whether directly or through their Associations or cooperative societies.

Losses suffered by the IDBI-assisted companies

18. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 214 IDBI assisted companies, 106 companies reported losses to the tune of Rs. 109 crores in 1977;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such poor performance; and

(c) the steps preferred to be taken to prevent them from becoming sick?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These loss-making companies mainly belong to paper, mini-steel, glass, chemicals and cotton textile groups, which passed through difficult times owing to a variety of factors such as power cuts, demand recession etc. Besides, bulk of these companies were new units which commenced production during 1976-77, and had to face initial teething troubles resulting in their failure to achieve optimum utilisation, of installed capacity. Escalation in the project costs was another factor, which adversely affected the profitability projections of these new units.

(c) For the purpose of rehabilitation/revival of viable sick units, the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), in consultation with other participating institutions works out a time-bound programme, which normally includes measures such as package of concessions by way of moratorium/rescheduling of overdue instalments and interests, need based additional assistance, including concessional terms, if necessary, strengthening of management by inducting professionals, merger with a healthy unit, etc. IDBI also denotes considerable attention in the matter of follow up/supervision of the assisted companies through periodical inspections so as to secure the necessary feedback on their working. For closer surveillance of the assisted concerns which have turned sick or have been showing signs of incipient sickness or have major problems, a separate Division has also been set up in IDBI, which is engaged, *inter-alia*, in nursing of these units.

Bank deposits of Commercial Banks during 1977-78

19. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: