

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the items of art object, utensils and wares of different metals and alloys likely to be exhibited include bronze busts of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore; replicas of Vishnu, Nataraja and Parvati, handicrafts items like Brass and Copper ware, bidri artware, silver jewellery, stainless steel, household-ware, artificial jewellery, non-ferrous fixtures and fittings for industrial use etc. Other art objects include model of Taj Mahal, model of Tanjore temple, model of Raja.Rani temple of Bhubaneswar, Buddha in Vyakhayana-mudra Gandhara, Peacock Gandhara, Bronze Nalanda Stupa, some of 40 original painting and sculpture items.

Shortage of Rudraksha

269. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great shortage of Rudraksha beads in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b) Representations were received about the availability of Rudraksha beads in the country. Accordingly, the current year's import policy allows their import on a "restricted" basis.

Export surplus of agricultural products

270. SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULGARNI: Will the Minister of COM-

MERCE CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any policy decision as regards the export of agricultural products, which are either surplus to the country's requirement or are necessary for exports, such as sugar etc.; and

(b) whether Government are aware that due to reduced consumption of various agricultural commodities huge stocks have piled up with producers dealing to a fall in their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b) Government's policy is to allow exports of items of mass consumption including agricultural commodities only to the extent that there is a clear surplus. Exports of commodities which have no supply constraints are allowed freely.

In March, 1978 the wholesale prices of some agricultural commodities like sugar, gur, khandsari, raw cotton, cottonseed, groundnuts, coffee, tea, onion, tobacco etc. were lower as compared to their prices in March, 1977.

There is however, no evidence of reduction in the domestic consumption of such commodities. Apart from export oriented commodities like tea, coffee, tobacco etc., the total production of some commodities has exceeded domestic demand e.g. sugar, gur, onions etc. and their exports have been allowed.

Prices of edible oils

271. PROF RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of edible oil have declined in the country;

(b) whether the import of edible oils has had any impact of prices; and

(c) what are the prices of edible oils at present, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE