

Government plan to discontinue canalisation of export and import of some commodities

857. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to discontinue canalisation of export and import of some items through the State Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details regarding Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b) The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad which has been entrusted with the study of the functioning of the STC and MMTC and their subsidiaries is inter-alia required to make recommendations regarding the role of these organisations in the over-all national interest they are supposed to serve. The Institute has already submitted an interim report. Various items presently canalised through the STC and other canalising agencies will be reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the Institute.

Sale of Candles through Fair Price Shops

858. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH
ANAND: SHRI SANAT
KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arrangements were made for sale of packets of candles for Diwali through the fair price shops in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the picture on the packets of candles

showed Mahatma Gandhi saluting the national flag with RSS founder Hed-gewar behind him and a group of RSS volunteers in the background; and

(d) whether Government received any representation against the sale of such packets and if so, what action Government had taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The paraffin wax quota holders manufacturing candles in the Union Territory were required to manufacture candles and to deliver them to Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation in packets of 300 Gms. each stating the price fixed by Delhi Administration of Rs. 1.60, inclusive of all taxes. The Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation was to pass on these packets to Fair Price Shops so that each ration card holder got two packets at stipulated price. The margin of Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation and Fair Price Shops was 5 paise each per packet.

(c) Candle packets of one of the quota holders were found to contain the pictorial representation.

(d) On 5th of November, Commissioner, Food & Civil Supplies was instructed to direct the Fair Price Shops to return the improper packets to Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation. The Corporation was instructed simultaneously to substitute these packets. The packets of several Fair Price Shops were substituted with other packets without having the improper pictorial representation.

Swedish Minister's visit to India

859. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swedish Minister for Development Cooperation visited India recently and had discussions with the officials of the Government of India; and