

in the market increasing the availability, the Government have amended the said Order providing for increased stock limits for certain populous areas and primary mandis. The maximum limit for other areas has generally been maintained. This has been done to ensure a smoother flow of stocks from the producer to the consumer.

Hoarding of edible oil stocks in railway wagons

*734. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have issued any instructions to the State Governments to seize all such stocks of edible oil as are lying with the Railways and are not being lifted by the traders, with a view to creating an artificial scarcity; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and to what extent the measure has brought relief to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir. After the Pulses and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977 was issued on 30-9-1977 the State Governments were advised to initiate concerted action to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Order and check any attempts by the trade, to hold up stocks at various carriers including railway wagons and Railway Stations without taking delivery.

(b) Writ petitions were filed against this Order by several traders in the Supreme Court, who issued on 14-10-77 interim orders against the confiscation of the stocks in excess of limits prescribed therein. The provisions of this Order did not, therefore, have its proper impact. The Storage Control Order of 30-9-1977 has since been modified by an Order issued on 21-11-1977.

The State Governments, who are the executing agencies for the implementation of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, take appropriate action as necessary.

Changes in the policy of export of iron ore

†735. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:
SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI:
SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR:

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

(a) whether Government propose to make some changes in the policy in regard to the export of iron ore; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present under consideration of Government to make any change in the policy in regard to the export of iron ore, except that efforts would be directed towards diversifying the commodity mix so as to maximise domestic value added in this traditional export item.

Colombo Plan Consultative Committee

‡736. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:
SHRI BIRCHANDRA DEB BURMAN:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee met at Kathmandu on the 29th November, 1977; and

†Previously Starred Question 531 transferred from the 9th December, 1977.

‡Previously Starred Question 676 transferred from the 16th December, 1977.

(b) if so, what was the nature of the deliberations held and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Officials' Meeting was held from 29 November to 2 December and the Ministerial Meeting from 5 December to 7 December 1977.

(b) The Consultative Committee held deliberations on five major issues. The main thrust of the discussion on the first issue, namely, the need for employment-oriented development strategy was that such a strategy was needed to raise the standard of living of the people in developing countries, and required a multi-pronged approach since employment was inter-related with all aspects of development. In this context, the need for integrated rural development was underlined.

On the second issue, namely, the development, management and conservation of natural resources including water resources, development of the water resources of the region through co-operation of all the countries was emphasised. The importance of proper management and conservation of natural resources was also stressed in order to meet the growing energy requirements of the developing countries.

Promotion of skills through non-formal education in rural areas, was the third issue and its role in responding to the needs and aspirations of the people in those areas was highlighted.

On the fourth issue, namely, the widening of forms and levels of technical co-operation within the Colombo Plan, the consensus was that it should be widened so as to make it more useful to recipient countries.

On the fifth issue which pertained to transfer of technology, the Committee was of the view that technology transfer to developing countries should

be designed taking into account the resource endowments and development goals of the recipients and should promote indigenous research and development of technology.

In addition to discussing the above issues, the Committee approved the Constitution of the Colombo Plan and decided to continue its Drug Advisory Programme during the year 1978.

News item captioned "Kapadias" Rs. 36 crore fraud"

*737. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the "Current" of the 10th December, 1977 under the caption 'Kapadias' Rs. 36 crore fraud";

(b) if so, whether a thorough probe has been conducted into this affair; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the details in this regard and what action Government have taken against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have already appointed a One-man Committee consisting of Shri D. N. Ghosh, Director in the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, New Delhi to enquire into the credit facilities given by the Central Bank of India to M/s Kohinoor Mills Co. Ltd. The One-man Committee has submitted its report on 1st December, 1977 and the same is under examination by Government.