

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 KHAP-ARDE: 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.