

Ban on Export¹ of Essential Commodities of mass consumption

*342. SHRI MULKA GOVTNDA KEDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently banned the export of certain essential commodities of mass consumption in order to check rise in prices of these items within the country; and

(b) if so, what are these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b) Recently no essential commodities of mass consumption have been banned. The export policy of essential commodities has been reviewed during 1977-78. Essential commodities of mass consumption are now allowed to be exported only to the extent that there is a clear surplus. Commodities having no supply constraint have been allowed to be exported freely. Following this, during 1977-78, illustratively, the exports of fresh vegetables, potato, onions, turmeric, cummin seeds, Niger seed and oil, Kardi seed and Oil, HPS groundnut, roasted and blanched peanuts, pulses, Instant, dehydrated and pre-cooked pulses, salt, cotton, yarn, Pomfret and dried Bombay Duck etc. have been either banned or restricted.

Renewal of Licences of Tourist Guides

*343. PROF. SOURENDRA BHAT-TACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Tourism has issued a circular to the effect that licences of Tourist Guides who have attained the age of sixty years will not be renewed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that tourist guides are daily wage earners with no benefit of pension, gratuity, bonus, health service scheme insurance etc.. and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to withdraw the circular?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The job of a guide requires a lot of physical strain. Normally a person after attaining the age of 60 years tends to lack the physical agility that a guide's job demands. Escorting individual tourists and groups on sight-seeing is taxing both physically and mentally and a number of old guides cannot do justice to the job on account of their failing physical capabilities. This measure, therefore, is intended to ensure uniform quality and standard of service-throughout the country.

(c) Yes, Sir. But guiding is considered a part-time profession. Guides are free to accept employment other than with the Central or State Government or in the travel trade.

(d) No, Sir.

Corporation for edible oils, oil seeds and pulses

*344. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: SHRI
LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 618 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 1978 and state:

(a) whether the details of the proposal to set up a Corporation for edible oils, oil seeds, and pulses have been worked out; and

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