

Retail Prices of pulses in Delhi

, *490. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHA-
PARDE:
DR. V. P. DUTT: SHRI
NARASINGHA PRASAD
NANDA:

"Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state;

(a) the prices of various pulses prevailing at present in the retail market in Delhi; and

(b) the comparative monthly price of various varieties of pulses in Delhi since April, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b) Information regarding the prevailing average retail prices and the movement of average monthly retail prices of pulses since April, 1977 in Delhi is given at Annex-I and Annex-II respectively. [See Appendix CVI, Annexure No. 82.]

Import of National Rubber

*491. SHRI S. KUMARAN:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to import natural rubber.

(b) if so, what are the details regarding the proposed import and what are the reasons therefor?

(c) whether the Agriculture Minister of Kerala recently apprised the Central Government of the consequences of the import of rubber; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is the Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government has been concerned about the rising prices, of natural rubber and the threatened closure of various units manufacturing rubber goods particularly the small scale units. It had decided to import 15,000 tonnes of rubber to meet the situation. However, as a result of the discussions which the Commerce Minister had with the Minister of Labour and Minister of Agriculture, Government of Kerala and some MPs. from the State recently, the decision to import rubber has been deferred for the time being as it was agreed that Kerala Government would take steps to bring down the price of natural rubber immediately and that the manufacturers of rubber goods would be supplied the required quantities and grades of rubber without any difficulty. The Rubber Board has also been directed to take steps to bring down rubber prices. Government is keeping a close watch on the rubber prices and its availability. Commerce Minister had his discussion with the Chief Minister of Kerala on 6th August and Chief Minister has agreed to execute the agreement reached with his colleagues.

Curtailment of Subsidies Given by the Central Government

*492. SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN
SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI
SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU SHRI
LOKESH CHANDRA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to curtail the subsidies now given in the form of

cash and reduction in excise duty and bank interest in order to generate funds for rural and backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Some of the subsidies included in the Central Budget are in the nature of direct assistance, such as subsidies for minor irrigation, land development works, agricultural inputs, and animal husbandry schemes for the benefit of the Rural population. Subsidies are also paid for the establishment of industrial units in backward areas.

Reductions in excise duties are notified with reference to considerations like market conditions, ability of an industry to bear the maximum rate of duty etc. They are not of the nature of subsidies which can be curtailed to generate funds for rural and backward areas.

The structure of bank rates has been laid down for different sectors of economy having regard to all the relevant circumstances including the cost of borrowing. Interest subsidies in the form of cash are given after making specific provision in the Budget.

It is the policy of the Government to review the subsidies from time to time and reduce them progressively bearing in mind the effects of such economies on commodity prices and the cost of living.

The Committee headed by Shri Va-dilal Dagli, which has been set up already would be looking into the system of controls connected to subsidisation and make recommendations about the possibility of moderating or eliminating the system of subsidisation by suitable modifications in the system of controls.

Export of Sugar

*493. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:
SHRI ARVIND GANESH
KULKARNI: SHRIMATI
LEELA DAMODARA MENON:
SHRIMATI USHI KHAN;

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

(a) the quantity of sugar exported so far during the current year, the price realised therefor and the names of the agencies through which it was exported;

(b) whether Government are aware of the over production of sugar in 1978-79 and the inability of the industry to pay minimum prescribed price to canegrowers; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to evolve a national policy to encourage production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) In the current year i.e. 1978-79, so far, a quantity of 12,200 MT sugar valued at Rs. 2.15 crores has been exported by the State Trading Corporation, the agency through which export of sugar have been canalised since 1974. The average price realised on these exports is Rs. 1763/- per MT FOB.

(b) and (c) Production of sugar for the sugar season 1978-79 (October-September) is yet to commence. The production during the current season i.e. 1977-78 is expected to be of the order of 65 lakh tonnes, which is an all time record and has resulted in heavy carry-over of stocks with the sugar mills and some difficulty in payment of cane price by some of the factories to growers.