

[English]

Development of Spices

323. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board has formulated any schemes to encourage spices processing, packing and oleoresin units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance is being provided to such small industrial units;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any multinational companies are marketing these products in the country;

(f) whether the Government have received any joint-venture proposals from multinationals in the sector;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the likely impact of such joint venture on the export and production of spices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Spices Board has various schemes to promote high quality processing and packaging of spices and spice products and thereby to step up exports from this very important sector. These are schemes of Brand Promotion, 'Logo Promotion', 'Spice House Certificate', market missions, broad and participation in trade fairs etc.

(c) and (d). The benefits of these are

available to all units big or small, which are engaged in producing, processing and exporting spices and spice products.

(e) to (g). Foreign direct investment is permitted in the case of food processing industries to the extent of 51% on automatic basis subject to dividend balancing over a 7-Year period. Further, majority foreign equity holding upto 51% by foreign investors is allowed by RBI for export houses, trading houses and star trading houses.

(h) The setting up of such joint ventures is expected to step up investment, upgrade/modernise technology, and create a stable and long-term market for Indian spices and spice products.

Chelliah Committee

*324. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA
VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recommendations of the Chelliah Committee which have been implemented by the Government;

(b) the status of those recommendations which have not been implemented so far;

(c) whether lower excise rates are being considered to enhance total excise duty collection in any given year; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposals being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.