

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details of export and import of coffee and tea during the last three years is given below :-

**COFFEE**

(Quantity in tonne)

Year	Export	Import
1994-95	1,37,350	Import of roasted/decaffeinated
1995-96	1,70,990	Coffee was allowed only from
1996-97 (Provisional)	1,69,938	1.4.95 and negligible quantity of coffee has been imported so far.

Source : COFFEE BOARD

**TEA**

(Quantity in Million Kg.)

Year	Export	Import
1994-95	152.16	0.20
1995-96	163.65	0.46
1996-97 (Provisional)	162.86	0.86 (April-Sep. 1996)

Source : Tea Board

(b) The targets for export of coffee and tea during 1997-98 are as under :-

Coffee	1,70,000 tonnes
Tea	180 Mn. Kgs.

**Weavers Cooperative Societies**

6635. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of weavers cooperative Societies in Gujarat at present;

(b) the details of the handloom goods manufactured by these societies during the last one year;

(c) whether any stocks have been accumulated with these societies and also with apex body; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :  
(a) At present, number of Handloom Cooperative Societies in Gujarat are 1355.

(b) The Handloom goods manufactured by Handloom Cooperative Societies during the last one year are bed-sheets, towels, nepkine, bed-covers, dhoties, sarees, Pachhedies, Dhablas, Woollen shawls, single iket Patola Sarees, Tangails etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Annual Session of ESCAP Member Countries**

6636. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has given any assurance to the member countries of the ESCAP of India's firm commitment to the economic integration of the ESCAP region while addressing the 53rd Annual Session of the ESCAP at Bangkok on the April 30, 1997; and

(b) if so, the nature of the help pledged by him for ESCAP region unification ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In the Statement of the Commerce Minister at the 53rd Annual Session of ESCAP on 29th April, 1997, it was only mentioned that greater regional and sub-regional cooperation has become a necessity in this age of globalisation and regional cooperation is an integral part of successful globalisation. In this connection, it was reiterated in the Statement that India stands firmly committed to a greater role for ESCAP in the Asia Pacific Region.

**Setting Up of Centres by Spices Board**

6637. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Spices Board proposes to set up centres for the development and export of spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum of spices exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last year; and

(d) the efforts being made to promote the export of spices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) As per the Spices Board Act 1986, the Spices Board has

the responsibility of promoting development and export of cardamom and export development of other spices. The Board is implementing a number of schemes aiming at export development of spices such as quality evaluation/upgradation and promotion of value added spices. The Spices Board has at present four regional offices at Delhi, Bombay, Madras & Calcutta and 5 marketing offices at Tuticorin, Bodinayakannur, Saklespur, Unjha and Sikkim. These Offices are set up at the strategic centres mainly to assist the spice exporters in their effort to increase exports and to implement the export development programmes of the Board. Besides, the Board has main research station at Myladumtara and regional stations at Sikkim, Saklespur and Thadiyantudisai for research activities in respect of cardamom.

(c) The details of export of spices during the last year are given below :-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. crores)
1996-97	2,19,400	1180.00

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta, Spices Board, Cochin.

(d) Apart from the general trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance export of spices are, abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), cardamom, saffron and spice oils and oleoresins to enhance its price competitiveness in the overseas markets; implementation of brand promotion schemes like logo promotion; grant of spice house certificate as a recognition of processor/exporters of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

#### Bilateral Trade Talks with Russia

6638. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has urged Russia to speed up the process of auctioning rupee debt in order to improve bilateral trade;

(b) if so, whether Indian delegation accompanied by the former Prime Minister had made a number of agreements to improve the trade between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which both the countries have agreed to improve the trade;

(e) the barriers that were coming in the way of improving the trade between the two countries;

(f) the action taken by the two countries to remove the barriers; and

(g) the extent to which the trade between the two countries is likely to be improved during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Government of India has impressed upon the Russian Federation for timely allocation of rupee funds to experienced Russian entities to improve Indo-Russian trade.

(b) and (c) Two important bilateral agreements having significant bearing on Indo-Russian trade were interalia signed in the areas of avoidance of Double Taxation and Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters. The details of the above agreements are as under :-

#### (i) AGREEMENT ON THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION

This Agreement seeks to avoid levying of identical or substantially similar taxes on income of individuals as well as corporate bodies in the two countries.

#### (ii) AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CUSTOMS MATTERS

This Agreement provides a framework for cooperation between the two countries in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of offences against their customs laws.

(d) The above agreements signed are expected to boost bilateral trade and promote mutual investments in both the countries, ensure accurate assessment of customs duties, taxes and other customs charges, discourage switch trade and ensure proper implementation of the provisions on prohibition, restriction and control over imports and exports.

(e) The barriers coming in the way of improving the trade between the two countries include lack of facilities in terms of financial infrastructure such as absence of Indian banks, time taken for opening of Letter of Credits (LCs), delay in allocation of rupee funds, lack of adequate and reliable warehousing facilities.