

more export markets for cardamom and so on.

Shri Warior: What is the stock of cardamom now lying idle without export market, and by how much have the prices gone down on account of that?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is not so. As a matter of fact, since the scheme came into operation, the prices have shot up from Rs. 6 a k.g. to Rs. 15 a k.g. The stocks are in individual hands, and we have no tallying of that.

श्री कछवाय : इलायची की हमारे देश में जितनी मांग है उस मांग को हम स्वयं पूरा करते हैं या किसी और देश से भी इलायची अपने यहां मंगाई जाती है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : हमारे यहां की इलायची तो हिन्दुस्तान का कैंटिल है। जितनी इलायची हमारे यहां पैदा होती है उसका ३० से ४० परसेंट तक का कंजमेशन तो अपने देश के अन्दर हो जाता है और कोई ६० या ७० परसेंट एक्सपोर्ट होती है।

श्री बे० शि० पाटिल : इलायची के बागों के संवर्धन और विस्तार के लिये इलायची विकास तथा विपन्न मंत्रणा समिति में बागानमालिकों का प्रतिनिधित्व कितने परसेंट है ?

श्री मनुभा शाह : सारे बागान वाले ही उसमें हैं।

Iron and Steel Board

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*567. { **Shri Surendranath Dwivedi:**
Shri Kapur Singh:
Shrimati Shashank Manjari:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether some representatives of private sector steel plants on the producers' committee have recently suggested to Union Government for

the constitution of an autonomous Iron and Steel Board;

(b) whether the representatives of public sector steel plants have also submitted a report to Government containing similar views;

(c) if so, Government's reaction in the matter; and

(d) when Government will finally decide the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) The Private Sector major Producers have suggested that price and distribution control of iron and steel may be entrusted to an Iron and Steel Board representing the Main Producers with a neutral chairman and some other members appointed by Government, the Board to work subject to such directives as Government may issue whenever necessary.

(b) The Public Sector plants viz. Hindustan Steel Limited have also submitted their comments. But, their views are different.

(c) and (d). The recommendations of the Raj Committee and of the Main Producers are under consideration of Government and a decision on them will be taken as early as practicable.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Has the private sector pointed out any particular difficulty on account of which it wants this board to be constituted?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): No, they have not pointed out any difficulty, and they wanted the appointment of such a joint board.

Mr. Speaker: In the absence of this board, are they feeling any difficulty? That was the question.

Shri C. Subramaniam: There is no difficulty which has been pointed out.