

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). With regard to cotton and silk a statement is given below. Regarding khadi details are being collected.

Statement

Exports of Cotton and Silk

| Year | Cotton | | Silk** | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Quantity (Lakh bales) | Value (Rs. lakhs) | Quantity (Lakh Sq. Mtres.) | Value (Rs. lakhs) |
| 1983-84 | 3.54@ | 9836@ | 144.08 | 9448 |
| 1984-85 | 1.72@ | 6379@ | 165.31 | 12288 |
| April- December, 1985 | 0.53* | 1275* | 143.10 | 12134 |

* Figures relate to the period September, 1985 to 2nd week of February, 1986 (Cotton Season is September to August).

** Natural Silk goods (excluding mixed/blended silk goods and silk waste..)

@ Figures relate to Cotton Year from September to August.

[Translation]

Green Tea Produced at Pathini Tea Estate in Karimganj, Assam

2836. SHRI SUDARSHAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pathini Tea Estate in Karimganj District of Assam, a Union Government undertaking, managed by the Tea Trading Corporation of India mainly produces green tea for export to Morocco;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large quantity of green tea is lying in factory godown and could not be disposed of

as the trade agreement with Morocco had not been renewed; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to dispose of this huge quantity of green tea ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Around 400 Tonnes of green tea could not be despatched by TTCI to Morocco due to delay in opening of letter of Credit as per agreed shipments schedule. The problem has now been solved and shipments would be made from April, 1986 onwards.

[English]

Fall in Prices of Cardamom and Loss of Export Markets

2837. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the steep fall in prices of different export varieties of cardamom;

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken by the Board and his Ministry to arrest this drift in this valuable foreign exchange earning export commodity;

(c) whether his Ministry is also aware of the unhealthy trade practices indulged in by our competitors in the West Asian markets; and

(d) whether his Ministry proposes to set up a study team for an indepth study and reasons for this fall in prices and loss of markets ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b). Prices which had risen sharply in the past three years, on account of short supply as a result of drought, have now returned to levels comparable to those prevalent with normal level of production. The bulk of exportable surplus has already been exported and there is a likelihood of achieving a new