

ports are mainly from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

### Pepper Export

336. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:-

(a) the total quantity and value of pepper exported during the period January to October, 1989; and

(b) the share of Kerala in the total exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a)

QTY (MTs.)	VALUE (Rs. in lakhs)
24379	12341

(b) Figures of exports are not maintained statewise.

### Election reforms

337. SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons filed nominations as independent candidates for the Lok Sabha Elections held recently;

(b) the number out of them elected and the number who lost their deposits; and

(c) whether Government are considering to introduce reforms in the electoral laws aimed at discouraging non-serious candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSMANI): (a) 3634 inde-

pendent candidates filed their nominations for the Lok Sabha Elections, 1989.

(b) 13 independent candidates were elected. Number of candidates who forfeited their deposits is being collected from the concerned Chief Electoral Officers.

(c) This is among the proposals presently under the consideration of Government.

### Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act

338. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the Union Government have taken away the residual powers of the State Governments in the matter of mineral concessions etc.;

(b) whether the minerals like dolomite, limestone, bauxite, gypsum, kyanite etc. are now included or proposed to be included in the First Schedule in addition to atomic minerals and precious metals;

(c) whether Government contemplate to examine the whole issue afresh in order to empower the State Governments for grant of control/concessions for the benefit of the local and rural masses; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In 1987 amendments were made in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 primarily to ensure systematic and scientific development of