

stones, Electric machinery, Transport equipment, Organic and inorganic chemicals, Artificial resins, plastic materials, Professional & scientific controlling instruments etc. Higher imports have been effected to support the levels of consumption of essential items, investment and production in the country.

(d) Various efforts are being made to effect efficient import substitution particularly in the area of bulk imports. It has also been decided not to encourage imports of non-essential items.

#### Decline in Cardamom Prices

43. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a continuous decline in the price of cardamom during last three years;

(b) whether this has resulted in heavy losses to the growers; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to arrest the decline in prices and provide a remunerative price to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) The prices of cardamom at auctions during the last 3 years have been as follows :-

Year	All India Auction price (Rs. per kg.)
1984-85	199.91
1985-86	132.80
1986-87	118.82

(c) The following steps have been taken by Govt. :-

1. The Spices Trading Corporation is making purchases to stabilise prices. It is hoped that the purchases of the Spices Trading Corporation will ensure reasonable prices to the growers.

2. The Spices Board is closely monitoring the market trend to protect growers interest.

3. Incentives for export such as C23 and air freight subsidy at Rs. 7 per kg. have been provided.

[Translation]

#### Compensation to the People of Pithoragarh, U.P. for Acquisition of Land by Army

44. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that during China's attack on India in 1962, the Army had acquired land of local people of Dharchula, district Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh by giving nominal compensation;

(b) if so, whether he is also aware of the fact that most of these people belong to SC/ST; and

(c) if so, whether his Ministry propose to consider to give them some more amount as financial assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c) No land was acquired by the Ministry of Defence in Dharchula, District, Pithoragarh (UP) during 1962. However, land measuring 142.434 acres was acquired on 24-2-73, compensation for which amounting to Rs. 10,03,260.35 assessed by the Land Acquisition Officer as per the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, has already been paid to the concerned people.

As per the law, the compensation has been paid to all including the owners of the acquired lands belonging to SC/ST, and it is not possible to give any more financial assistance to any of the owners whose land has been taken.