

Productivity of Cardamom

7160. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether productivity of cardamom in India is the lowest;

(b) if so, the fact as well as the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken during the past three years to increase the productivity of cardamom?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b). Productivity of Cardamom in India is around 65-70 kgs. per hectare which is lower than in some other countries.

The reason for low productivity in India, interalia, is the predominance of old and unproductive gardens. There has also been inadequacy of research support.

(c) The Spices Board has taken a number of measures for improving the productivity of cardamom. These include extension support to farmers, assistance for replanting, making available quality plant material, provision of irrigation facilities and assistance for plant protection.

Use of Pesticides in Coffee and Tea Plantation

7161. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticides are widely used for coffee and tea plantation and if so, the estimated annual use for each of the above throughout the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether estimate of residues in final tea/coffee is carried out at random; and

(c) if so, the details of minimum/maximum level of residues found in tea and coffee respectively?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) yes, Sir. The estimated Annual use of Pesticides for Tea per Annum is 2,000 Tonnes. In Coffee Plantations around 5000 tonnes of BHC is used in addition to some liquid formulations.

(b) and (c). The residues found in the final crop are well within the tolerance limit. Only approved chemicals are used in Tea and Coffee Plantations with a view to ensure that the residues are within the permissible limit.

Guidelines for Development of Metropolitan Cities

7162. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued by Union Government to the States for the development of metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether keeping in view the low density of forest cover in the country, State Governments have been advised to plant trees by the road side and also along rail tracks; and

(d) if so, the reaction of State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) No, Sir.