

Decline in Exports

4321. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the export target set up for financial year 1982-83 and whether a substantial decline in exports is feared in tea, coffee, cardamom and spices ;

(b) what are the export figures for these commodities during the last three years ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring upward trend in exports in respect of these commodities ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) The overall export target for the current financial year 1982-83 is tentatively fixed at Rs. 8650 crores. Although a substantial decline in exports of tea, coffee, cardamom and spices is not feared during the current year, yet the present prospects for these items do not appear encouraging.

(b) According to available data from Commodity Boards/Export Promotion Councils, the export figures in respect of these items for the last three years are as below :

Item	1979-80	1980-81 (Prov.)	1981-82 (Prov.)
Tea	384.69	435.27	402.52
Coffee	178.97	215.77	162.20
Cardamom	48.36	34.50	31.11
Spices	107.02	70.29	62.14

(c) The measures taken by the Government to promote exports of these items include the following ;

TEA :

Enhancement of an all industry rate of draw-bank on import duty and excise duty on imported material for Tea Bags exports from Rs. 85/- per kg. to Rs. 90/- per kg. on Tare weight of Bag w.e.f. 1-6-82.

Enhancement of REP rate for Tea Bag Exporters alongwith enlargement of list of materials permitted for import.

Full excise duty relief on exports from gardens and to the extent of 44 paise per kg. for exports otherwise than from gardens.

Tea Board conducts various promotional activities. These include tea sampling and demonstrations through field and in store promotions, participation in Fairs and Exhibitions etc. Joint promotion Scheme with Indian Exporters and Tea Importers in various countries, media publicity, production and distribution of publicity material on Indian Tea, Public Relation activities, etc. are other promotional measures.

COFFEE :

Negotiations with large buyers in Member countries.

Development of New Markets.

Release of substantial quantities of Coffee at Export Auctions.

Introduction of a new scheme for rebate to new markets.

Careful monitoring of processing of coffee for export markets.

CARDAMOM ;

A trade promotion office of the Cardamom Board has been established at Bahrein to collect and transmit market intelligence on cardamom and to undertake market promotion activities in the core Middle East markets. Efforts are also being made to form Cardamom Community of

producing countries viz., India, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Guatemala. To popularise Indian Cardamom, projects for publicity campaign in the middle east through production of TV films and other promotional literature are also being undertaken.

हेडक्वार्टर्स 1-सिग्नल सेन्टर, जबलपुर में
श्रमिक समिति

4322. श्री बाबू राम परांजपे : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या लगभग एक हजार असैनिक कर्मचारी हेडक्वार्टर्स 1-सिग्नल सेन्टर, जबलपुर में काम कर रहे हैं और यदि हां, तो क्या वहां श्रमिक समितियां गठित की गई हैं; और

(ख) यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री के० पी० सिंह देव) : (क) हेडक्वार्टर्स 1 सिग्नल ट्रेनिंग सेन्टर, जबलपुर (न कि हेडक्वार्टर्स 1 सिग्नल सेन्टर) में लगभग 700 सिविलियन कर्मचारी कार्य कर रहे हैं। वहां पर कोई भी वर्कर्स समिति गठित नहीं की गई है।

(ख) वर्कर्स समिति औद्योगिक विवाद अधिनियम, 1947 के अन्तर्गत गठित की जाती है जो इस यूनिट पर लागू नहीं होता।

Undercutting by China of Exports from Developing Countries.

4323. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has asked China not to undercut exports from other developing countries which causes them severe hardship by aggravating their balance of payments problem;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Chinese Government;

(c) whether China has been offering severe competition to India in items like tea, jute, textiles etc.;

(d) if so, whether India has proposed to China some alternatives to remedy the situation; and

(e) if so, whether they have agreed to the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e). Discussions on bilateral trade were held during the visit to India of a high level Chinese delegation in May, 1982. During the discussions, it was observed by the Indian side that India and China were competing in international markets in their exports of tea, jute, textiles, sports goods, knitwear, woollens and light engineering items. It would ensure better foreign exchange realisation to both the countries if they were to agree to export at the normal price.

Increase in Production of Rubber

4324. SHRIMATI USHA PRAKASH CHOUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to import rubber this year and whether this move has created concern amongst rubbergrowers and further it is likely to result in the crash of prices of indigenous rubber ;

(b) the final decision taken by Government in this regard ;

(c) the production of rubber in the country this year, the present requirement and whether it is not adequate to meet the need ; and