

**Cardamom Export Deal by S.T.C.
Resulted in Heavy Loss**

813. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to STC blunders, the country has lost over Rs. 1 crore in foreign exchange over a Cardamom export deal as reported in 'Business Standard' of 21 June 1984;

(b) if so, corrective steps taken/proposed in the matter;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cardamom production has gone down despite major 'break through' in agricultural R&D and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to set the matters right ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The decline in Cardamom production was mainly due to unprecedent drought prevailed during last two years.

(d) The major steps taken by the Government to boost the production are as under :-

1. Replenishing loan-cum-subsidy scheme for small growers.
2. Extension of Replantation loan-cum-subsidy scheme to large growers.
3. Production of seedlings in polythene bags in certified nurseries to distribute among the growers.
4. Opening of 200 certified nurseries for producing 24000 seedlings of cardamom annually to distribute among the growers.

Threat to Third World Debtor Countries

814. SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the threat to third world debtor countries arising from the indiscriminate loans given by the International Lending Agencies/Governments of major industrial nations (Financial Express dated 16 June, 1984);

(b) whether Government are aware that a similar situation is likely to overtake India in 1986-87; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) While many developing countries are experiencing difficulties arising from the debt service burden, India is not one of those. The Government's policy in regard to foreign borrowings takes into account the paramount need to maintain the external debt and debt service situation within limits of prudent debt management. Debt crises of the type witnessed in some other countries is not likely to overtake India in 1986-87.

Coverage of Bihar by Regional Rural Banks

815. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 6925 on 6 April, 1984 regarding opening of Regional Rural Banks in Bihar and state ;

(a) whether every district of Bihar is going to be covered by separate Regional Banks during 1984-85;

(b) if so, details thereabout; and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the list of the existing and proposed branches of Regional Rural and other nationalised banks in the districts of Madhubani and Darbhanga; and

(d) whether steps have been taken to open new branches of Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank at Reorha and Ghoghraha Bazars under Jaley block of Darbhanga District and at Makaya and Dipura in

Madhubani District in view of their urgent need for the adjoining Gram Panchayats ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Steering Committee on Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have recommended setting up of Regional Rural Banks to cover Patna, Hazaribagh, Begusarai and Bhagalpur districts in Bihar. Sponsor Banks have been asked to formulate specific proposals in consultation with the State Government. With the opening of these Regional Rural Banks, all districts in Bihar except Dhanbad will be covered by a Regional Rural Bank.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. Central Bank, the sponsor bank for the two Regional Rural Banks, have, however, reported that the centres have not been identified by the State Government for branch opening during 1984-85.

Castor Oil Board

816. SHRI R.N. RAKESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a scheme to set up a Castor Oil Board to look after promotional measures for production and exports;

(b) if so, the functions of such a Board and names of its members; and

(c) the time by which the Board will submit its report to Government for implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) to (c) A Working Group on Castor Oil has been set up by the Ministry of Commerce to study, *inter-alia*, the feasibility of the creation of a Castor Oil Board. The Working Group is expected to submit its report in three months.

Proposal to Manufacture Finer Variety of Controlled Cloth by NTC Mills

817. SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal for National Textile Corporation to manufacture finer varieties of controlled cloth; and

(b) if so the steps taken by N.T.C. in this regard, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) A proposal has been received from NTC for the manufacture of medium and finer varieties of controlled cloth.

(b) NTC has been requested to examine the issue in consultation with NCCF which is the distributing agency for controlled cloth.

Issue of Bonus Shares by Companies

818. SHRI D.S.A. SIVAPRAKASAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies to which the Controller of Capital Issues permitted issue of bonus shares in the last two years;

(b) whether these companies have followed the guidelines prescribed for issuing such bonus shares or any exception has been given to any company; and

(c) if any exceptions have been given, the details of exceptions and the companies to which such exceptions were given ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) During the financial years 1982-83 and 1983-84, permission was given to 185 and 150 companies respectively for the issue of bonus shares as these companies fulfilled the requirements of the guidelines.