

Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture

598. DR. VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has offered consultancy to the Indian Government on negotiations for the review of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto;

(c) the extent to which this consultancy is likely to help India to put its case strongly before the World Trade Organisation; and

(d) the salient features of the agreement so reached?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) A Round Table was organised at New Delhi on 18-19 January, 1999 with participation of two officials of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to discuss the strategies for forthcoming negotiations of the Review of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture.

(c) The participation of FAO officials in the Round Table helped in generating awareness about the thinking in other countries and the issues that are likely to arise during the forthcoming review of the Agreement on Agriculture.

(d) No formal Agreement is contemplated with FAO in this regard.

Coffee Plantation

599. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists of Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) have developed a pheromone pest control method;

(b) if so, details of the research; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to propagate the use of new technology in coffee plantation at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The Central Coffee Research Institute in collaboration with Natural Resources

Institute (NRI), United Kingdom have succeeded in identifying and synthesising a Pheromone compound for the lab and field evaluation and its possible use to control the dreaded coffee pest viz. White Stem Borer (*Xylotrechus Quadripes*).

A Senior Scientist of CCRI was deployed to NRI, London to work in collaboration with that institute to identify and synthesise the Pheromone compound, to combat the White Stem Borer. Subsequently, Pheromone compound present in the male beetles of White Stem Borer was successfully identified. The scientists have also identified a few models of field traps for carrying out the efficacy of the Pheromone in the coffee plantations.

The scientists of the Board have already started evaluating the success of Pheromone compound to trap the female beetles of White Stem Borer in the field. The initial tests have shown positive results. However, large scale field evaluation of the Pheromone in different coffee tracks are necessary before recommending usage of this Pheromone in the field. Further, methodology for large scale synthesis of Pheromone, standardisation of trap designs, cost benefit ratio and adaptability in different regions are to be worked out.

[Translation]

Employment on Compassionate Grounds

600. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the policy adopted by the Government to provide employment to the people on compassionate grounds in Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): Below Board Level appointments come under the purview of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and compassionate appointments in PSUs are regulated by the rules of the PSU concerned.

[English]

Coal Carried by Private Contractors

601. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private contractors are allowed to carry coal from the collieries of E.C.L. to the dumping ground;