

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested the Union Government to constitute a Joint Committee to monitor the working and revival of the Eastern Coalfields Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) A State Level Joint Monitoring Committee was set up by the Government of West Bengal on 24.12.98 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, West Bengal. In addition to the representatives of the Government of West Bengal, the Coal India Limited (CIL) and the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) were represented in the Committee. Only one Trade Union was initially represented in the Committee. By an amendment effected on 30.1.1999, the Government of West Bengal included five more Trade Unions in the Committee. Before constituting the Committee, the Government of West Bengal did not seek for the concurrence of Ministry of Coal. The composition of the Committee and its terms of reference were decided solely by the Government of West Bengal without any consultation with the Ministry of Coal.

Quantitative Restrictions on Export of Rice

2660. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Ministry has sought quantitative restrictions on export of rice;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure buffer norms before export of rice?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Review of Export import Policy of agricultural products, including rice, is an on-going process and accordingly Policy interventions are made as and when considered necessary keeping the interests of domestic producers, consumers and industry in view. Consultations in this regard between various Ministries including Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs and exporters/importers are held from time to time. As per the current EXIM Policy, export of rice (both basmati and non-basmati) is free subject to registration of contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

(c) The total minimum stock to be maintained by public agencies under the new buffer stocking policy w.e.f. 30.10.98 and stocks available are as under :-

Date	Million Tonnes					
	Rice		Wheat		Total	
	Buffer norms	Stocks with public agencies	Buffer norms	Stocks with public agencies	Buffer norms	Stocks with public agencies
1st April	11.80	13.05	4.00	5.08	15.80	18.13
1st July	10.00	12.04	14.30	16.48	24.30	28.52
1st Oct.	6.50	8.96	11.60	15.24	18.10	24.20
1st Jan.	8.40	11.69	8.40	12.70	16.80	24.39

(Source : Min. of Food)

[Translation]

Export of Pulses

2661. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and the varieties of pulses imported/exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the foreign exchange spent/earned through its import and export;

(c) whether the Government propose to export gram pulse;

(d) if so, the quantity of gram pulse proposed to be exported during 1999-2000, country-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of pulses imported and exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99 (April-November'98) are as follows :-

Year	Quantity : MTS Value in Rs. crores			
	imports		exports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1997-98	659396	833.64	160183	354.74
1998-99 (Apr.-Nov.98)	208870	274.23	75050	160.96

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Some of the varieties of pulses imported include Peas (Pisum Sativum) Dried and Shelled, Chickpeas (Garbanzos) Dried and Shelled, Beans of The SPP Vigna Mungo.