

(b) whether the employment opportunities in Banks are likely to be affected as a result of the said facility; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Representation From Association of Bank Employees

104. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from the All India Bank Employees' Association on matters pertaining to the banking industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Government have received a representation from All India Bank Employees' Association, making suggestions on the following matters :

- (i) Restructuring of Banks.
- (ii) Wilful default of bank loans.
- (iii) Full disclosure of the list of all bank defaulters.
- (iv) Bank's Balance-sheets should be absolutely transparent.
- (v) Establishment of Independent Audit Commission.
- (vi) Establishment of a Central Vigilance Commission.
- (vii) Appointments of Bank's Chairmen & Executives through a Banking Service Commission.
- (viii) Standing Parliamentary Committee should be set up to screen the performance of Nationalised Banks.
- (ix) Periodic consultation with the unions of employees and officers.
- (x) Not to establish Local Area Private Banks.

(c) Effecting improvements in the banking industry is a continuous process in which suggestions received from different sources are kept in view in the light of all relevant factors.

Import & Smuggling of Cardamom

105. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cardamom grown in Gautemala is coming legally/illegally to Indian market;

(b) if so, the total quantity of cardamom with its value which has come to India during each of the last two years;

(c) whether low priced Gautemala cardamom thus coming to India has crashed the domestic price;

(d) if so, the comparative price of Gautemala and Indian cardamom during the above period;

(e) whether Nepal is importing cardamom through Calcutta port;

(f) if so, the total quantity reached at Calcutta port during the above period;

(g) whether such cardamom is diverted to India at nil duty or low duty;

(h) if so, the total quantity of cardamom arrived in India from Nepal during the above period; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government to curb smuggling of cardamom from Nepal or in transit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a), (g) and (h) Cardamom being a consumer item, its import is not permitted except against an import licence. However, growers of cardamom have represented to the Government that cardamom from Gautemala imported by Nepal is finding its way illegally into India.

(b) Details of imports of cardamom (small), during the last two years are given below :

Year	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1994-95	20.00	32.82
1995-96	26.41	20.75

Source : DGCI&S Calcutta).

(c) No, Sir. The weighted average domestic price of small cardamom during the period Aug-Jan. (1996-97) was Rs. 398.46 per kg. as against Rs. 201.50 per kg. during the period Aug-July (1995-96).

(d) The price of Indian & Guatemalan small cardamom in the middle-east markets during the last 2 years was as under :

Year	Variety	Price range (US \$ per kg.)
1994-95	Gagutemalan Small Cardamom (Bold green/Bold)	7.00-8.50
	Indian (Extra Bold/Bold)	16.81-20.30
1995-96	Guatemalan Small Cardamom (Bold green/Bold)	5.70-7.00
	Indian (Extra Bold/Bold)	9.00-10.50