

particular purpose has not been utilised properly. This is one thing. All these juvenile institutions are not functioning properly as a result of which the Ministry has written number of letters to all these institutions.

My question is this. Has the hon. Minister visited any such centres anywhere in the country? I think the Minister concerned has visited it. He had observed that irregularities are going on in all these institutions. I would like to know the hon. Minister's Observations on this. Mere writing letters will not help. How much funds are we allocating for them? I want to know whether he has got any inspection machinery to inspect the activities of all these institutions.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : So far, I have not visited any Juvenile reform centre. But the moment the Session is over, I will visit.

MR. SPEAKER : Very good reply.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : The children who come out of these Juvenile Reform Centres are generally viewed as criminals and are neglected by society in every walk of life. I would like to know whether the Government will give special importance to such children in jobs so as to enable them to join the mainstream of the society like others, without any discrimination.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : According to the Juvenile Act, the Government have the responsibility towards the children, viz., up to 16 years in case of boys and 18 years in case of girls. There are many ways and provisions through which the children are restored to lead a normal life. We are also having some other channels through which we provide self-employment to such children.

Clove Production

*324. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cloves grown in India are of good quality;

(b) if so, the details of total production, domestic need and import of cloves during each of the last five years, State-wise;

(c) the details of domestic prices of cloves from 1985 onwards, year-wise, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to help the clove growing farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) As per latest available rough estimates, the State-wise production of clove is given below :—

(in metric tonnes)

State	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Kerala	734	750	750	750	750
Tamil Nadu	690	674	650	822	830
Karnataka	75	75	75	75	75
A&N Islands	1.17	1.39	1.62	1.88	1.92
Total	1500	1500	1477	1649	1657

(ii) The quantity of clove imported each year of the years 1991-92 to 1995-96 is given below :—

Year	Quantity imported (MT)
1991-92	1594.35
1992-93	2924.46
1993-94	4503.87
1994-95	2523.17
1995-96	3305.45

(iii) The annual domestic consumption of clove is around 5,000 tonnes.

(c) The prices of clove (non-extracted) in Kottayam and Trichur market for the years 1985-86 to 1996-97 (upto January, 1997) are given below :—

Year	Price (Rs./kg.)	
	Kottayam	Trichur
1	2	3
1985-86	189	189
1986-87	186	188
1987-88	222	216
1988-89	172	160
1989-90	151	146

1	2	3
1990-91	207	199
1991-92	257	245
1992-93	233	175
1993-94	165	110
1994-95	145	83
1995-96	142	95
1996-97 (upto January, 1997)	148	94

(d) The clove farmers are being supported under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices being implemented during 8th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 125 crores. The Programmes for clove includes :

- (i) Production and distribution of seedlings at subsidised rates; and
- (ii) Establishment of demonstration plots. In addition, Demonstration-cum-Progeny gardens are also being set up in each State of North-Eastern region for collection and multiplication of improved varieties of spices including clove.

Besides, subsidy at 90% for SC/ST, small & marginal farmers and 70% for other farmers is given for use of drip irrigation under a different scheme.

Apart from the above, the research institutions have identified 40 superior clones & standardised vegetative propagation technique for their large scale multiplication & distribution to the farmers. Fertilizer schedule and control measures for pests and diseases have been standardised, which are passed on to the farmers.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, as per the answer, clove production in India is not much. It is also very clear that the farmers are not being benefited much, though India can be proud of growing the best quality cloves in the world.

From the answer, we see that the price, ten years back, viz., in 1985-86, was Rs. 189 per kg whereas in 1996-97, the price is just Rs. 94 per kg the cost of production has gone up steeply. Will the hon. Minister take a very serious note of this to see what could be done to save the farmers to get a remunerative price, especially, when they are producing the best quality cloves in the world ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is a fact that we produce good quality cloves in the world compared to any other country. Regarding import of cloves, I would

like to say that the unit value in 1995-96 was Rs. 29.61 per kg.

The domestic price varies from Rs. 98 to Rs. 142. This is a very serious matter and keeping the consumers interest also in view, we are still allowing import of cloves.

Regarding the second part of the question which the hon. Member has asked, I am serious about that and I have asked the Ministry to work it out as to why our productivity is so low. It should be enquired into.

Regarding what should be done to improve the quality of the sapling or the tissue culture, I would like to mention that that question should also be gone into.

On the question that our cost of production is high, it is reported to us that it is about Rs. 200 per kg. Though no official assessment has been so far made, I have asked the Ministry to go into the matter in detail so that India can come up in trade in the international market.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : There is another aspect also which cuts at the root of the hopes of the farmers. The hon. Minister has said, the cost of production is about Rs. 220 per kg, the price has come down to Rs. 94 per kg and the imports are also going up. But apart from all this, a lot of smuggling is taking place from certain countries. We find that through other means, cloves are coming to some of the ports, from there they are taken by road and while they are being taken by road, they are being smuggled.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this has come to the notice of the Ministry and if so, whether serious action will be taken to catch hold of these culprits so that the Indian farmers can be saved.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the unofficial report is that it is coming. When the price variation is so high, one can understand that smuggling will go on, but even then there is import duty levied on cloves coming from outside and that is up to 32 per cent.

Of course, we have asked the Government and other departments to be more vigilant and do something. But the real solution lies in improving our own productivity. I will look into that.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, Karnataka is the third largest clove producing State in the country. If we see the production rate, it has remained static from 1991 to 1994-95. It is only 75 metric tonnes. The hon. Minister in his reply has said that for improving production, they have taken some steps like establishment of demonstration plots in addition to demonstration-cum-progeny gardens in the North-Eastern States.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether such programmes are being undertaken in the traditional

growing areas also, including Karnataka, so that the production can go up.

My next part of the question is this. The import particulars are given up to 1995-96. In the year 1995-96 as much as 3,305.45 metric tonnes of clove was imported. That means more than Rs. 50 crore worth of clove was imported. So that much of money in hard currency is being spent on import of cloves. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would think of expanding the traditional areas like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka by providing more facilities to the clove growing agriculturists.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Karnataka clove plants grow well but do not bear flowers. I have asked to carry on tests to find out the causes of non flowering of clove plants. Clove plants bear flowers in Kerala and Tamil Nadu but not there. We can conduct tests to find out reasons. We have asked to look into this aspect.

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Now, Tamil Nadu has the highest production of cloves in India. Even though the production has been heavy, the farmers are not willing to go in for clove production. Have you got any programme through the ICAR to produce hybrid variety ? So far no research has been done. Have you got any idea to produce hybrid variety of cloves ? The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are very much suitable for clove production. Have you got any programme there ? Will the Minister answer to this question?

MR. SPEAKER : The earlier question was related to that. Mr. Minister, do you have any plan for exploration in non-traditional areas ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : As I have told you, the first idea is to see how productivity is increased and find out what are the places climatically suitable for this. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands is certainly one of the traditional areas. But in the other areas also like Karnataka, as the hon. Member has said and as I have already told you that there is a defect. So, surely it will be looked into. Firstly, how to have a hybrid or tissue culture or something like that ? If that is decided, then we can go ahead.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : So far, there is no research done on hybrid variety.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In a nutshell, this situation reflects the economic policies of the Government also. Let me put the question. Firstly, on a rough calculation, let us say the price difference between the imported and the domestic clove is Rs. 30 crore. Then who does the import and who gets the profit ? That is my first point.

My second point is this. You have 32 per cent import duty. Why can't that be raised in order to collect more for the Government instead of reducing in the import duty ?

My third point is this. Why do you not have a quantitative restriction ? It is because before you begin to improve, they will shift away from clove. The reason being it is becoming a losing proposition. So, some protection is necessary. At the same time, some egg on is also necessary to increase the quality and productivity. I would like to know whether such a view is possible by the Government or not.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the point is that cloves are coming from neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka and other places. We do not want to impose such a high duty that it adversely affects us.

The hon. Member is aware that for the SAARC countries, we are going to reduce it. That will go against the policy that we have been pursuing. But by increasing our own production, we can compete with them. As I told you, in non-traditional areas like North-East, we are trying to increase our production. I have told you about Andaman and Nicobar Islands. By doing that, we can compete with them and not by raising the import duty. That will not be desirable. It is because we are having good relations with them. It is not the only item. Had it been some developed countries, then I would have considered this question for quantitative restriction also. But with our neighbours we have to go for higher and higher trade. I do not think it is advisable.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Who makes the profit ? Who are the importers ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I cannot give you the importers' name.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is not Public Sector Undertaking.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : How can we do it ? Do you think that India is now for Public Sector ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I want a confirmation from you.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : do not think Communists have any illusion about that. The Communists would not have any illusion about where our country is going.

[Translation]

Supply of Seeds and Fertilizers

*325. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers are not getting fertilizers and seeds in time in several States and the yield of agricultural production is declining as a result thereof;