

(e) Several State Governments, including Kerala have been requesting the Ministry of Textiles to set up centres of NIFT in their States. It is not proposed to set up any new branch of NIFT except at Bangalore during 1997-98.

Export of Pepper

6610. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of pepper exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years upto March 31, 1997;

(b) the total quantity of pepper produced during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of pepper due to damage of crop in the international market during this year;

(d) if so, whether India can export pepper which has a comfortable supply position in the country to earn more foreign exchange;

(e) if so, the total quantity likely to be exported during 1997-98; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to increase production and export of pepper in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details of the total exports of black pepper including pepper powder during the last 3 years are given below :-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	35,371	225.87
1995-96 (P)	24,223	181.84
1996-97 (E)	47,770	416.52

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta,
Spices Board, Cochin

(b) Statewise details of production of pepper during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given below :-

State	(In Tonnes)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Karnataka	790	760	910
Kerala	49850	59260	59930
Tamil Nadu	600	640	670
Pondicherry	NEG	NEG	NEG
Andamans	80	80	80
Total	51320	60740	61590

Source : Dte. of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

(c) Though no official figures are available there are reports of lesser production this year in Indonesia and Brazil.

(d) and (f) Some of the steps taken by Government to increase the production and export of pepper include :-

- (i) Abolition of core on export of pepper (Except green pepper and brine) to enhance its price competitiveness in the overseas markets;
- (ii) Implementation of Brand Promotion Schemes like Logo Promotion, grant of Spice House Certificate as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products;
- (iii) Setting up of laboratories for testing of products, technology transfers, process upgradation and product development.

During the 8th Plan a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for development of Spices was implemented for increasing production and productivity of various spices with an outlay of Rs. 125 crores. Under this scheme, measures such like production and distribution of quality planting material, plant protection measures, area expansion, and intensive cultivation practices were being implemented. It is proposed to continue the above programmes during 9th Plan with increased outlay and wider area of operation.

(e) The export projections for the year 1997-98 have not been formulated. The exports will depend upon the international demand and supply positions, the prices in the international and domestic markets and consumer preferences.