

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4936
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2000
NEW VARIETY OF COFFEE
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Coffee Board is making attempts to introduce new types of coffee which will resist the pests and other problems;
- (b) whether some international organisations are also cooperating in introducing this new variety of coffee;
- (c) if so, the names of such international organisations;
- (d) whether assistance has been sought by these international organisations for this purpose; and
- (e) if so, the extent to which the acreage of coffee would be covered by this new strain in the next three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

- (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Coffee Board has taken up a collaborative project on coffee breeding against leaf-rust and coffee-berry disease with assistance from Coffee Rust Research Centre of Portugal to develop pest / disease resistant varieties of coffee suitable to Indian coffee tracts. A project to develop transgenic plants against major coffee pests viz. Coffee-Berry Borer and Coffee White Stem Borer with the collaboration of the International Centre for Agricultural Research & Development, France is under process of implementation.
- (d) No, Sir. Instead, the Board has been availing expertise of the International Organisations for evolving disease resistant varieties of coffee.
- (e) The acreage of coffee to be covered by the new strain can be quantified only after the suitability of new pest resistant varieties of coffee in different agro-climatic conditions are assessed before releasing them.