

(b) whether there has not been considerable increase in the export of pepper;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of pepper?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) to (c). Details of exports of pepper, during the last three years, year-wise are given below:

Year	Qty. (MT)
1988-89	36981
1989-90	34482
1990-91	31871

Exports of pepper have declined due to a variety of reasons including the Gulf war, a fall in domestic production in 1990-91 and high domestic prices of Indian pepper.

(d) With a view to promote exports of pepper, different pepper based products viz. pepper oil, oleoresins dehydrated green pepper and frozen green pepper etc. were developed and detailed study/surveys have been organised by the Species Board to explore the market potential. Other export promotional activities like participation in International fairs, sending delegations/study teams to selected markets and arranging buyer-seller meetings in India to promote export of spices, including pepper, are organised by the Spices Board.

Cochin Port

1556. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total mandays lost in Cochin Port due to strike during the last one year;

(b) the steps taken to regularise the casual employees of Cochin Dock Labour Board; and

(c) the total earnings and expenditure of Cochin Port during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There was no strike by the employees employed by Cochin Port or Cochin Dock Labour Board. Hence, there was no loss of mandays.

(b) Efforts to evolve a formula in consultation with the Unions have not succeeded.

(c) During 1990-91, total earnings of the Cochin Port were Rs.63.65 crores and total expenditure was Rs.53.24 crores.

Effect of NRI Deposits on Balance of Payment Position

1557. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the balance of payments position is affected by the investments/deposits of the Non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of foreign exchange reserves accounted for by the Non-resident Indian deposits as on December, 31, 1989, 1990 October 31, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The balance of payments position is affected by the deposits of the non-Resident Indians in as much as the net inflow from NRI deposits

constitute an inflow in the Capital Account and thus help finance the deficit in the Current Account. Investments of NRIs also

constitute an inflow in the Capital Account. (c): Foreign exchange reserves position is as given below:-

(Rs. Crores)

<i>Date</i>	<i>F.E. Reserves</i>	<i>Outstanding NRI Deposit Balances</i>
31.12.1989	5277	17,213
31.12.1990	2152	19,863
31.10.1991	6032	20,319

The FE Reserves depend on a number of factors like export earnings, inward remittances, NRI deposits, international aid flows, import expenditure debt repayments etc. These are all variable factors and it is not possible to assess the percentage of FE Reserves accounted for by any one factor.

Purchase of Rubber by STC

1558. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW:
SHRI KODIKKUNNIL
SURESH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rubber purchased and stocked by the State Trading Corporation this year;

(b) the quantity of rubber purchased by the Rubber Marketing Federation and other Agencies for and on behalf of State Trading Corporation;

(c) whether there is any dispute between the State Trading Corporation and these agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the dispute has been settled;

(e) the quantity of rubber released by State Trading Corporation during the last ten months; and

(f) whether the Government propose to direct State Trading Corporation to purchase and stock as much rubber as is required to ensure the floor price to growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) During 1991-92, STC has purchased 8684 metric tonnes of RMA-5 grade of natural rubber from the domestic market (as on 22nd November, 1991). Out of this, 1043 MTs of rubber has been sold and the balance quantity of 7641 metric tonnes of RMA-5 grade of rubber is lying in stock with STC.

(b) As on 22nd November, 1991, 8684 metric tonnes of RMA-5 grade of natural rubber have been procured by the following agencies:-

i)	Kerala State Cooperative Rubber Marketing Federation (KSCRMF)	:	8298 met. tonnes
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