

**Cardamom and Pepper cultivation**

908. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to get remunerative prices to cardamom and pepper growers; and

(b) whether the Union Government are implementing any projects to develop cardamom and pepper cultivation in Karnataka?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). With a view to ensure remunerative prices to the growers of cardamom and pepper, a number of steps have been taken by the Government, which include, regulating cardamom auctions extension advisory scheme production and supply of planting materials and providing subsidy under irrigation and land development programme.

For increasing the production and productivity of spices including pepper, a Central Sector Integrated Programme for Development of Spices is being implemented in various States including Karnataka during 1991-92 with an outlay of Rs. 5.00 crores. Under this scheme, programmes such as production of rooted pepper cuttings and construction of nursery shed, supply of input kits and plant protection sprayers for pepper have been taken up in Karnataka during 1991-92 with an outlay of Rs. 18.25 lakhs.

**Establishment of Sainik School  
Atkoodige**

909. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR:  
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to estab-

lish a Sainik School at Koodige in Kodagu District, Karnataka;

(b) whether an area of 200 acres of land has been acquired in Koodige for the purpose;

(c) if so, the estimated cost of the project; and

(d) by when the Sainik School is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d). A Sainik School is established at the specific request of a State Government/Union Territory Administration as the entire capital expenditure and a major portion of the recurring expenditure has to be borne by it. No proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka for the opening of Sainik School in Kodagu District.

**Privatization of NJMC Mills**

910. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:  
SHRI SRIKANT JENA:  
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over the six nationalised jute mills of National Jute Manufacturing Corporation to a private company against a lease fee of Rs. 30.00 crore in violation of the rules and norms laid down in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(c) what are the terms of lease, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Abolition of Posts in CCI & E Office

911. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of posts in the office of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (CCI&E) have been abolished recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of officers and employees likely to be affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Office of the CCI&E is being restructured keeping in view the changes brought out by the New Trade Policy. A Departmental Committee has been constituted to examine the new staffing pattern of the Office of CCI&E. Posts which are found unnecessary or redundant will be abolished without in any way affecting the interests of any regular employee of the CCI&E organisation. However, no post in the CCI&E organisation has been abolished so far nor any employee retrenched.

#### Retirement Age in General Insurance Corporation of India

912. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the age of retirement in General Insurance Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Discontinuance of Janata and Controlled Price Cloth to the Poor

913. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to discontinue the supply of Janata Cloth/Cloth at controlled price to the poor and weaker sections of the society; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to discontinue immediately the supply of janata cloth and controlled cloth meant for the poor and weaker sections of the society.

It is, however, proposed to go in for a phased reduction over a period of five years in production of janata cloth because of the policy to reduce subsidy and non-plan expenditure. Both janata and controlled cloth are subsidised items of production. However, the weavers engaged in production of janata cloth which provides them sustained employment even though at a low level of income, will be provided alternative employment and livelihood by gradually shifting them to production of higher value and higher margin items. An omnibus project package scheme will be implemented in the Eighth Plan which will provide funds for modernisation of looms, training, provision of better designs, infrastructure and marketing assistance to weavers, including weavers engaged in production of janata cloth.