

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6840
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2003
VRS IN COFFEE BOARD
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

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

- (a) the total number of employees who have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the Indian Coffee Board during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether this scheme is still in vogue;
- (c) whether the Board has succeeded in reducing the administrative expenditure after introducing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYA SAGAR RAO)

(a) Consequent to liberalisation of coffee marketing, the Board was divested of its coffee marketing activities in a phased manner effective from 1994. Subsequently a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) was offered to the personnel working in the Marketing Wing of the Board and a total number of 1688, as detailed below year-wise, opted for VRS and left the services of the Board:-

Year No. of employees opted for VRS

1995-99	1684
2000	2
2001	-
2002	2

While all the employees who opted for VRS - 94 were relieved from the services of the Board during the years 1995-99, two employees were relieved during the years 2000 and 2002 respectively due to pending disciplinary inquiries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Prior to liberalisation of coffee marketing activities, the Coffee Board had a staff strength of around 3000 employees, whereas the present strength of the Board is only about 1100 employees. As such after introduction of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme, the Board has substantially reduced its administrative expenditure on pay and allowances, Traveling/Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance etc.