

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:332
ANSWERED ON:11.07.2014
WINDING UP OF FIELD OFFICES
Raghavan Shri M. K.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to wind up certain field offices of the Spices Board engaged in Pepper Rejuvenation Programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures being taken to retain these offices and to increase pepper production in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b) : The Spices Board has initiated action to close down four field offices in Mananthavady, Pulpally, Sulthan Bathery, Panamaram, a zonal office at Sulthan Bathery and a Regional Office at Kalpetta which were exclusively engaged in replantation/ rejuvenation of Pepper in the state of Kerala, as the period of the Pepper Project implemented with funding from the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) has been completed at the end of financial year 2013-14.

(c): The Spices Board has requested the Government of Kerala to take adequate steps to continue programmes for increase of pepper production. An integrated project for development of various spices including pepper has been furnished to the Government of Kerala for support under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).