

measures being implemented for development of black pepper are :

- (i) Production of rooted pepper cuttings of high yielding varieties;
- (ii) Rehabilitation of old pepper gardens;
- (iii) Distribution of input kits;
- (iv) Plant protection measures against Quick Wilt disease;
- (v) Eradication of Little leaf disease;
- (vi) Establishment and maintenance of demonstration plots in farmers' fields; and
- (vii) Area expansion.

Out of the total allocation of Rs. 30 crores under the IPDS for the year 1997-98, about Rs. 11.34 crores were earmarked for black pepper development. These programmes are proposed to be continued during 1998-99.

Financial Assistance to Himachal Pradesh

4433. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Prime Minister has announced certain financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh during his recent visit to the State;

(b) if so, the details of the amount announced, sanctioned and released so far;

(c) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released;

(d) whether the amount sanctioned is on refundable basis or assistance basis; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister during his visit to Himachal Pradesh had announced a project related Central assistance of Rs. 100 crore and also an additional allocation of Rs. 100 crore.

(b) to (e) the details including grant/loan components are being worked out and will be finalised in the annual Plan discussions between Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.

Delicensing of Industries

4434. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy framework for delicensing of Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Review of industries retained under compulsory licensing for further de-licensing is an on-going process. As a result of this on-going exercise, only seven industries are presently retained under compulsory licensing.

Boost the Mica Trade

4435. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the policy of decanalisation was adopted in 1990 to boost up mica trade to give more employment and to earn more foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details of the result achieved.

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the policy, and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, while export of processed mica has declined after decanalisation (except in 1996-97), export of the canalised mica scrap, cuttings and waste has increased. Export figures of processed mica and mica scrap for the last four years are given in the statement attached. As regards employment, mica mining industry has sharply declined from 835 mines employing 25000 labour to 35 mines employing 2500 labour.

(c) and (d) Sir, the proposal for revival of Mica Industry has been engaging the attention of the Ministry. The proposal was reviewed in March 1998. Various options to boost mica exports have been under consideration of the Ministry in consultation with the concerned Ministry/Departments. Efforts to increase exports including unit value realisation, and ensuring a good price to the producers are being made.

Statement

Export of processed Mica

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Lakh)
1993-94	1580	716
1994-95	1350	617
1995-96	1299	540
1996-97	5304	814