

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No such report has come to the notice of Ministry of Textiles.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Recruitment of Group 'D' Employees of RBI

1533. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6063 on May 14, 97 and state:

(a) whether candidates who were interviewed in August, 1997 and declared selected are still awaiting in queue for joining their duties after completing all selection formalities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of candidates who have been not offered jobs so far; and

(c) the time by when all such candidates are likely to be recruited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that out of 80 candidates declared selected after interview held in August, 1997 for appointment in the cadre of Mazdoor/Khitmatgar, 18 have already been appointed. Six more candidates have been issued appointment letters. The RBI has further reported that remaining 56 candidates would be offered appointment as and when vacancies arise in the said cadre.

#### Import of Basmati

1534. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian traders are importing basmati rice from Pakistan;

(b) if so, the quantity being imported and at what rate;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the strong resentment of Indian farmer over the said import which is adversely affecting them; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Production and Export of Black Pepper

1535. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production and exports of black pepper during each of the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the activities made by the Technology mission on Black pepper for the improvement of productivity of black pepper till date;

(c) the main competitors of black pepper in the International market;

(d) major constraints affecting pepper production in the Country;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of black pepper?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Details of Production and export of Black Pepper are given in the attached Statement.

(c) While Indonesia, Malaysia, Brazil and Vietnam are the main competitors, Thailand, Sri Lanka, China and Madagascar are also producing and exporting Black Pepper.

(d) The major constraints identified in the production of black pepper in the country are (i) Low productivity; (ii) Prevalence of pests and diseases; (iii) Non adoption of scientific crop production practices; (iv) Existence of large number of unproductive senile/diseased vines; and (v) Lack of disease resistant/tolerant varieties.

(b) and (e) In order to increase production and productivity of various spices including black pepper, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices (IPDS) is being implemented. The 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.

#### Statement

##### (i) Statewise Production of Black Pepper

States	('000 Tonnes)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
(i) Karnataka	0.76	0.88	0.87
(ii) Kerala	59.26	59.94	53.77
(iii) Tamil Nadu	0.64	0.67	0.64
(iv) A & N Islands	0.08	0.08	0.08
(v) Pondicherry	neg	0.01	0.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.74</b>	<b>61.58</b>	<b>55.37</b>

Source : Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi

##### (ii) Export of Black Pepper from India

Year	Qty. (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	26,244	196.30
1996-97	47,893	412.32
1997-98 (Estimates)	34,250	479.56

Source : Spices Board

Note : State-wise statistics are not maintained.

[Translation]

#### Export of Vehicles

1536. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various types of vehicles including cars exported during 1997-98 and total value thereof;

(b) the number of vehicles imported during the said period;

(c) the estimated total number of persons employed in the said industries;

(d) whether these industries imported spare parts of various vehicles during the said period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the value of import?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) A total of 1,89,684 of different types of vehicles were exported to various countries during 1997-98 at an estimated value of Rs. 1421.72 crores.

(b) Data relating to number of vehicles imported during 1997-98 is not maintained centrally by the Director General of Foreign Trade.

(c) Automobile sector provides direct employment to 2 lakh persons and indirect employment to one crore.

(d) and (e) Imports of spare parts are under Open General Licence and thus their imports do not require Government approval. Therefore, such data is not maintained centrally by the Director General of Foreign Trade.

[English]

#### Lignite Reserves in Tamil Nadu

1537. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge lignite reserves has been identified by the geological experts in Mannargudi area in Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the quality and quantum of reserves identified; and

(c) the time by which mining activities likely to be taken up there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Quality of lignite in Mannargudi is as follows:-

(a) Moisture	—	40 – 50 %
(b) Ash	—	4 – 12%
(c) Volatile matter	—	18 – 23%
(d) Fixed carbon	—	17 – 22%
(e) Calorific Value	—	2200 – 3200 k.cal./kg.
(f) Bulk density	—	1.15 – 1.20 gm/cc
(g) Total sulphur	—	0.7 – 1.4

The total quantity of reserves identified is around 19,500 million tonnes.