

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
Total	60.74	61.58	55.37

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.

(c) Exploration in the area is not yet complete. The reserves are located under built up and agricultural areas making exploitation difficult. Steps are being taken to accelerate exploration and identify blocks which can be exploited in Mannargudi.

[Translation]

Coal Production in Maharashtra

1538. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal produced in Maharashtra during the last two years, year-wise; and

(b) the amount incurred on the development of the adjoining areas of these mines during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Coal produced in the mines of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) in the State of Maharashtra during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as under:

	(in million tonnes)	
1996-97	24.858	
1997-98 (Provisional)	26.173	

(b) The amount incurred on the development of the adjoining areas of the mines of WCL on social overhead (capital expenditure) in the Maharashtra State is as under :-

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
1. Residential Building	960.29	1,741.29
2. Water Supply	170.90	173.50
3. Medical	111.02	86.96
4. Education	64.49	103.50
5. Roads & Culverts	342.56	360.43
6. Others	14.83	68.56
Total	1,664.09	2,534.24

The expenditure on SC/ST and community development in the State of Maharashtra is as under :-

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
1. Community development	15.00	4.18
2. SC/ST (amount spent on peripheral areas predominantly populated by SC/ST Communities)	22.00	0.82
Total	37.00	5.00

[English]

Assistance by Public Sector Financial Institutions

1539. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance given by public sector Financial Institutions like LIC, NABARD, Industrial Financial Corporation of India, IDBI, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India to Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the assistance is proportionately very low as compared to other States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the position?

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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Exchange and Gold Reserves

1540. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of Foreign Exchange and Gold Reserves in the country as on January 1, 1995 and at present;

(b) the Foreign and Internal loan liability of the country during the above period;

(c) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the Foreign Exchange and Gold Reserves of the Country; and

(d) the target fixed for Foreign Exchange and Gold Reserves during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) India's foreign exchange reserves, including gold held by the RBI and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), amounted to US\$ 23.42 billion as on January 1, 1995 and US\$ 28.72 billion as on May 22, 1998.

(b) The outstanding internal debt and other liabilities and external debt liabilities of the Central Government as on 31.3.1995 and 31.3.1998 are as under :