

(c) whether export of plantation crop produce recorded an increase during this period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b) Exports of spices (including black pepper) and black pepper for the last two years are shown separately below:

Item	1988-89		1989-90	
	Qty. M.T.	Val. Rs. Crores	Qty. M.T.	Val. Rs. Crores
Spices . . . . .	99826	273.65	99886	274.36
Pepper . . . . .	38020	164.20	36601	159.88

It would be seen that total export of spices marginally increased both in terms of quantity and value. Export of pepper during 1989-90 was less by around 4% both in quantity and value than that of 1988-89. Lower production during 1988-89 at 45,000 MT with negligible carryover stock and late arrivals during 1989-90 season resulted in the decline of pepper exports during 1989-90.

(c) and (d) Export of tea increased during 1989-90 to Rs. 905 crores as against exports valued at Rs. 644.26 crores during the preceding year. The export of coffee also increased to Rs. 351.80 crores in 1989 from Rs. 337.72 crores during the preceding year. The export of cardamom however declined from Rs. 9.88 crores during 1988-89 to Rs. 3.19 crores during 1989-90. This decline is due to decline in production of cardamom resulting in hike in domestic prices of this produce.

233 Indian Currency  
Closure of Madras Mint

2723. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally closed down the Madras Mint;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representations from the jewellers of South to keep the Madras Mint open; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRY): (a) There is no Mint at Madras. Only a Gold Collection-cum-Delivery Centre functions there. At present there is no proposal to close it down.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

234  
Norms and Basis to Determine Tariff Rates in Five Star Hotels

2724. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the authority for determining the tariff rates for the five star hotels and the norms and basis for determining these tariff rates;

(b) the time gap after which these rates are revised and for how many