

[English]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : May I inform that I had a talk with Shri Chandulal Chandrakar, Minister of State, and he has written that he has sent a circular that Members of Parliament will be members of the DRDA.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : No. public representative has been kept on this committee...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER : Now you sit down, there are other gentlemen also in this House.

(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Export of Agricultural and Farm Products

*275. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM :
DR. VALLAL PERUMAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the volume and value of exports of agriculture products year-wise during the last two years and that expected during the current financial year;

(b) the different items of farm-produce exported during these years and the names of countries to which exported; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase exports of farm products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The value of exports of principal agricultural products year-wise during the last two years are as under :

(Rs. in Crores)	
1983-84 (Provisional)	1984-85 (Provisional)
2286.46	2354.63

Statistics regarding volume of exports of all agricultural commodities are not being maintained at present. The exports of agricultural products during the current financial year would depend upon the overall production, and in the international market situation.

(b) The principal agricultural commodities exported from India are Basmati Rice, Fruits and Vegetables, Cashew Kernels. Coffee, Tea, Spices, Tobacco, Processed Foods and Oil Meal. Exports are mainly moving towards the Middle East countries, USSR and EEC countries.

(c) The Government has taken a number of measures to increase exports such as Cash Compensatory Support, import replenishment to registered exporters, facility of duty draw back, assistance for market development, encouragement to exports in value added packs, periodic discussions with the States for increasing the production of exportable agricultural products etc. For the promotion of exports of agricultural products, institutional change like setting up of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Spices Board are envisaged.

Withdrawal of Subsidies on Food and Fertilizer

*276. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to tax the agricultural sector and withdraw the subsidies on food and fertiliser during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some State Governments have opposed it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Moreover, it may be noted that taxation of agricultural income is a State subject.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.