

talking about sugar. We are not exporting sugar. He is asking whether you are exporting it now?

MR. P.A. SANGMA : We are not exporting, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No it was two years back not now.

[*Interruptions*]

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : He says that the Government have not exported sugar in the recent years. It might have been done long back, not now.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied to. I want your protection. I have got all the figures with me. 8.18 tonnes of sugar valued at Rs. 210.92 crores was exported during 1983-84 @ Rs. 2578 per tonne.

[*English*]

MR. P.A. SANGMA : We have exported the sugar to the value Rs. 213 crores.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Sometimes it is done and sometime it is not done. This is all there in the trade.

SHRI BIRINDER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our vegetable and fruit exports to Gulf countries have increased tremendously during the last few years. The inner sheet of the containers which carry these vegetables and fruits is imported from Japan and, therefore, is very costly. Has any cell been set up in the Commerce Ministry to help the Agro Industries Corporation to manufacture this sheet indigenously so that we may be able to export green vegetables and fruits cheaper as compared to other countries whereby our farmer could be benefited?

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : In fact, we have our Research Institute. We are presently looking into all this.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Has it come to the notice of the Government that the mango pulp units are facing a lot of difficulty in the export of the pulp, due to the non-availability of the aluminium and tin materials which are required for the containers? Will Government make necessary arrangements, so that these units which are engaged in the production of mango pulp and are exporting their products, are supplied with the necessary tin material for the canning of products? Will Government take necessary steps for the supply of the tin material to the units directly?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I do not know the extent of their problem; but sometimes there are problems of this nature which come to our notice. As far as this particular problem is concerned, the availability of raw materials is with the Ministry of Steel and Mines. We will try to help them, and take up their cause with the concerned Ministry.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : The licensees are exploiting the situation, when the genuine requirements are not met by the Government.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : If you give me details. I will certainly take it up.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Vijay Kumar Mishra is not present. So, question 172.

Production and Export of Spices

*172 SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of spices in Kerala, their export and the foreign exchange earned during the last three years ; year-wise ; and

(b) the steps envisaged to promote export of spices during the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA : (a) Production of major items of spices in Kerala along with quantity and value of export of those items from India in the years 1981-82 to 1983-84 are indicated in the statement given below.

(b) Steps envisaged to promote export of spices include the setting up of a Spices Board to ensure an integrated approach for export development, increasing production and productivity, improvement in post harvest technology, value addition and development of new products and markets.

Statement

Production of Major Spices in Kerala and their export from India

Q. Tonnes

V. Rs. crores

Item	Production in Kerala	Exports from India	
Year	Q	Q	V
PEPPER			
1981-82	28500	20608	27.98
1982-83	25700	22592	29.39
1983-84	22030	25787	41.35
CARDAMOM			
1981-82	3300	2321	30.17
1982-83	1900	1032	16.37
1983-84	1900	258	5.44
CHILLIES (DRY)			
1981-82	1100	4659	4.21
1982-83	1100	12888	12.35
1983-84	1100	10610	8.78
GINGER (DRY)			
1981-82	32000	4718	3.95

1	2	3	4
1982-83	32700	3955	5.88
1983-84	32890	4629	11.90
TURMERIC			
1981-82	6100	11986	5.17
1982-83	5200	7595	4.24
1983-84	5200	10892	11.06

SHRI T. BASHEER : Kerala is a leading producer of spices. In his reply, the hon. Minister has stated that Government envisages the constitution of a spices Board for the development and marketing of the spices. There is a Cardamom Board which deals with the development and marketing of cardamom. There is a request from the people of Kerala to retain the Cardamom Board, and to constitute another Board for all other spices. I would like to say that more than 35 spices like pepper, ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg are there in Kerala. So, what is Government going to do; are they going to retain this cardamom Board as it is, and going to constitute another Board for spices other than cardamom? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. There are announcements to this effect. So, when are you going to take a decision regarding setting up a spices board?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Cardamom is one of the spices, and our intention is to merge Cardamom Board into the new Spices Board which we are going to constitute, and the Cardamom Board will not be retained as it is; it will be merged with the Spices Board.

SHRI T. BASHEER : It will not be beneficial for the cardamom. A separate board is necessary for the development and marketing of other spices. So, I suggest the hon. Minister to constitute another

board. In the given figures, the production of cardamom in 1981-82 was 3300. So, there is a downward trend in the production of cardamom. In 1983-84, it was 1900, and on the export side, in 1981-82, the export was 2321 tonnes valued at Rs. 30.17 crores; in 1983-84, the export was only 258 tonnes valued at Rs. 5.44 crores. What is the reason for this downward trend in production and the steep fall in the export of cardamom?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : As far as the cardamom is concerned, government has taken a very conscious decision of merging it with the Spices Board, and the Spices Board will be performing all the functions that have been so far done by Cardamom Board. So, I don't think government is going to take a second look at it. We are very much firm on that. As far as production of the cardamom is concerned, I think the hon. Member knows much more than me. There have been droughts in some years and because of the serious droughts production of cardamom has come down. But we have now taken several steps to bring back the production into the higher level, and I think it is progressing.

SARI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The hon. Minister has very clearly said that they will not have a second look at the idea of having the Cardamom Board continue. Is this so because it is an

attempt to make the Spices Board really do the cardamom work and not look at other spices? Is it an attempt to cover up the fact that they are not really interested in improving export of other spices and are only trying to attach importance to cardamom spices.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : There are various types of spices. Cardamom is one of them, I said. Then we have pepper, chilly and mustard. Government cannot go on having a separate board for each commodity and for each product. Since all these spices have a lot of potential for export, we thought that it is better that we have a common board to look after them.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Is the government importing spices which are produced within the country with the result that cultivation of those spices in this country is suffering a slump. I know, for instance, that pepper is a very rare spice, but you are importing that from Malaysia with the result that growers of that kind of spice are being ruined.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : The policy of import is formulated after taking into consideration the production in the country and the need in the country. There are items which we do produce in our country, but if the demand is higher than production that we have, then we will have to resort to import.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Sir, I seek your protection. When the indigenous growers are being ruined, what kind of a policy is that?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : We go by the advice of the experts.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : They are not advisers to ruin the indigenous growers.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to get it examined.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : If there are certain situations where the growers are suffering and the prices are coming down, we will examine it.

MR. SPEAKER : You must examine it.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : If the indigenous growers are being ruined by your import policy, should you not do something for them?

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Import/Export of Varieties of Cotton

***163. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state the details of import and export of different varieties of cotton during 1984-85 and the basis adopted for fixing this quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : According to the latest assessment made by the Cotton Advisory Board, there is likely to be a shortage of short/medium staple cotton and a surplus of long/extra-long staple cotton in the country during the current cotton season. Government have released a quantity of 2.95 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton for export and have also decided to import one lakh bales of medium staple cotton during the current cotton season.

[Translation]

Setting up of the Industries in Bastar (M.P.)

***168. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the question of setting up some industry based on iron ore, lime stone and dolomite deposits in Bastar district in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?