

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?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :
 (a) and (b) : No, Sir. However, there has been a proposal from the National Mineral Development Corporation (a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Department of Steel) to exploit the Dolomite deposits in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh in order to meet the requirements of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. However, on ecological considerations the location of the project is being reconsidered in consultation with the State Government.

Agricultural Loan Advanced by Co-operative and Commercial Bank to Cultivators

***169. SHRI SRIBALLAVPA NIGRAHI :**
 Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the conditions and circumstances under which agricultural loans advanced by co-operative and other commercial banks to cultivators are converted from short term to medium term by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether there was any proposal from Government of Orissa for such conversion following heavy loss of Dalua (Rabi) Crop on account of natural calamities like cyclone, tornado and hailstorm etc. in May and June 1985;

(c) if so, the decision of the Reserve Bank of India in the matter; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to all banks for providing relief measures, including facility of conversion of short-term loan into term loan, in areas affected by natural calamities. In the event of delay by State Government in declaring annewari, the sanction of conversion facilities can be considered if the District Collector certifies that the yield is below 50% of the normal yield. The repayment period of the

converted term loan is to be fixed keeping in view the overall repayment capacity of the borrower and the intensity of crop loss. In the event of successive natural calamities, the banks can grant extension of the converted loans for a longer period.

2. NABARD provides assistance to cooperative banks upto 60% of converted loans. The balance is to be met by the concerning State Government, State Cooperative Bank and Central Cooperative Bank.

3. NABARD had received a proposal from the Orissa Government in the month of June 85 seeking conversion of short-term loans aggregating Rs. 14 crores. NABARD has approved conversion to the extent of Rs. 13.96 crores.

4. NABARD has not received any reaction from the State Government so far.

Income Tax Outstanding Against Companies

***171. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA :**
 Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether income tax demands exceeding rupees one crore were outstanding from 68 companies;

(b) if so, the total amount; and

(c) the amount recovered as on 31st March, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Income-tax demand amounting to Rs. 312.81 crores was outstanding against 68 companies as on 31.3.1984. Out of it, a sum of Rs. 266.08 crores was collected/reduced during the financial year 1984-85. Demand outstanding in such cases as on 31.3.1985 is Rs. 46.73 crores only.

Plan to Penalise and Educate Industrial Consumers for wastage of coal

***173 SHRI AJOY BISWAS :**

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK :