

if developed, will attract large number of tourists. This will also promote national integration. Will the Central Government issue directives to the State Governments to promote such places for tourism and will the hon. Finance Minister make funds available for this purpose? If not, why?

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : Sir, the State Governments like U.P., Bihar etc. have not yet kept tourism under priority sector. A very meagre allocation has been made for this purpose in the Plan.

[English]

Now there is a new awareness and we are trying to attract their attention.

[Translation]

They should also utilise their resources to develop these places. So far as Government of India is concerned, we have allocated large funds for it this year and we have selected certain places for development.

[English]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : They should not only depend on the State Government, but they should have their own discretion and their own funds. They should have their own discretion as to what should be taken first and as to what should be taken afterwards. They should have their own discretion—because they are going to provide their own funds—as to which places are to be taken first and on priority basis.

Export of farm products

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*370. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main farm products being exported annually and their value during the last three years and the current year so far, year-wise ;

(b) the names of the countries to which exported and the agency through which exports are being made ;

(c) whether the private sector has offered its services for boosting the export of farm products ; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The main farm products being exported are Basmati rice, Tobacco, Cashew, Spices, Castor Oil, Oil Cakes, Shellac and processed foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables. The figures of exports of these commodities are indicated in the Annexure.

(b) The major markets for our farm products are the USSR and other East European countries, the U.K. and other countries of the European Economic Community, Gulf and Middle East and the United States of America. The export of most of the items of farm products is made by the private trade. However, public sector organisations like STC and MMTC are also engaged in their export along with NAFED.

(c) and (d) The Government has been interacting with the private exporters from time to time. The export licensing policy and export promotion measures are formulated after giving due consideration to the suggestions received from the private trade.

ANNEXURE

Figures in Rupee Crores

Exports	1983-84 (Prov.)	1984-85 (Prov.)	1985-86 (Prov.)	1986-87 (Prov.) (April—Sept.)
1. Basmati Rice	96.12	163.03	173.23	111.93
2. Tobacco	204.63	175.16	161.26	126.62
3. Spices	111.66	209.02	282.52	134.64
4. Cashew	149.49	180.00	217.00	197.21
5. HPS Groundnut	22.08	21.00	8.00	13.83
6. Sesame & Niger Seeds	11.81	15.00	16.00	5.44
7. Castor Oil	105.00	125.00	50.00	13.75
8. Oil Cakes	180.33	158.76	159.20	92.03
9. Shellac	13.61	29.73	41.33	19.97
10. Processed Food (including Fresh fruits and vegetables)	203.36	283.35	286.20	140.17

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : May I know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons for the declining trend of exports of tobacco, H.P.S. groundnuts, sesame niger seeds and castor oil, which are so declining every year, and the action taken by Government for increasing their export, specially when imports have been tremendously increased during the last few years and in the current year too—as agreed to by the hon. Minister on the floor of the House on a Calling Attention motion, and also while replying to question No. 369? What is the action taken by Government; what is the programme before Government to see that the export of these items is increased?

May I know whether it is a fact that tea, which is being exported from our country, is facing severe competition in the international market? If so, what is the programme before

Government, and what are the reasons for such a severe competition in the international tea market?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Some of the farm products, not some but most of the farm products are very low-priced commodities. As such, when we export them, in terms of calculating the figure, they do not look heavy, as when we export some other commodities. But apart from that, I would like to give the hon. Member a figure. It is not a fact that we are just losing the market, though there is tremendous competition, specially in respect of castor oil. After the Brazilians came into the market undercutting the prices, we are really faced with a very serious jolt. Yet, we are trying to improve the position in the export market by providing some more cash compensatory support.

Now, the figures are : for 1984-85, Rs. 1355.83 crores, for 1985-86, Rs. 1485.54 crores. Among these, spices looked very bright during last year. They accounted for Rs. 282 crores, or a little more than that. It was so because of the sudden rise in prices of black pepper, which has gone down in recent times, resulting in its affecting us.

In respect of farm products as you know—I would like to inform the hon. Member that apart from the market competition, sometimes domestic market also faces some crisis, due to climatic conditions, drought and other things, as also late arrival of crops.

So far as tea and other things are concerned, about which the hon. Member has asked the question, I can only say that tea prices are firming up, and we expect a better market this year.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : The hon. Minister has not given the correct reply. From the statement he has given, we see that the export of castor oil during 1983-84 was for Rs. 105 crores, for 1984-85 it was Rs. 125 crores, whereas for 1985-86 it was Rs. 50 crores and in 1986-87 upto September it was only Rs. 13.75 crores.

My second supplementary is this : in view of the fact that our nation is self-sufficient in foodgrains and that buffer stocks are kept for indigenous consumption, will the policy of exporting foodgrains like wheat etc. be relaxed ? If so, what are the details thereof ?

May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that there is huge demand for our horticultural products like fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, flowers etc. in European countries ?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jena, how long will you take to put this question ? This is not the way to put a question...

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : This is a very important thing, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : It might be important, but supplementary is a supplementary. It

should not be done like this.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Is there a heavy demand for horticultural products like fresh vegetables, fresh fruits and flowers in the European countries ? If so, will Government think of exporting them to West European countries from the month of November to April when those countries are covered with snow and frost ? When there is a greater demand of our products in those countries, what are the programmes before the government ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : In regard to castor, I would like to inform the hon. member once again that when the domestic price has gone high, obviously it is difficult for us to earn more in the export market for one reason that I have already referred that Brazilians have under quoted the price heavily. The castor which has to go to eastern Europe, we presume that some others are also getting it from Brazil.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : What about horticulture products ?

[Translation]

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any scheme to provide assistance by the Government to the private sector producers and secondly, whether there is any scheme to issue new licences to them ?

[English]

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : So far giving incentives to the farm producers who are engaged in the export field are concerned, I have already referred to the number of measures we have taken apart from the cash compensation support. But item to item it varies ; for cashew something is different ; for tobacco something is different. Now, for sugar, as you know, already due to increased price of sugar cane we are trying not to export more because our commitment is for the EEC countries to maintain the quota ; that is why we are obliged to do it. Otherwise, our intention is not to export

more and we do expect that within a short time we will become self-sufficient in this field. The hon. member has raised a question in regard to facilities now given to the farm product units ; whether we can give them to the private parties. As you know, it depends on item. For the canalized items which are sensitive in the market like onions and others, we cannot deal with private parties. But the private parties through their federation submitted a representation to us. We say, item to item, it may vary based on the market situation. The items which are non-restrictive and non-canalized, only in this matter negotiations can be arrived at.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : A story appeared in *the Statesman* regarding the deceptive manner in which a private firm based in Delhi exported basmati rice to the Soviet Union. Has it been brought to the notice of the government ? Is the Minister aware of the potential damage it could cause to the special relationship and friendship with Soviet Union ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Our relations with the Soviet Union are not linked with the export of basmati rice ; they are on something else ; and they are firm. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I think it is linked with the wheat that we have imported. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Are we importing wheat ?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What about my question ? Has that story come to your notice or not ? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We gave it back to them.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My question has not been answered.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : With regard to first question, till now we have not received any complaint ; but if it is brought to our notice, we shall certainly go into it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What about that story appeared in *The Statesman* ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I had raised it in this House. I was allowed to raise it under 377. Please go through the old record. The new Ministers do not see the old record. That is the trouble.

MR. SPEAKER : Old is old ; new is new.

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Chillies are mainly exported from Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh to Sri Lanka traditionally. For the past two years, the farmers who are producing chilly are in a great difficulty owing to the lowest price within a period of ten years.

The price of chilli was Rs. 1,500 per quintal in 1981-82, and it has gone down to such a low level as Rs 400 per quintal. Is it due to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka the export of chilli quantity has been reduced ? If it is so, will the Government like the other countries like to encourage export of chilli ? I also want to know categorically from the Minister the quantity of chilli exported during the period 1980-81 to 1984-85.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : The exact figure about the item of chilli at the moment is not available. I would like only to refer the hon. Member to the fact that last year it was better and the year before only we had started exporting and recently with Pakistan also. Now Sri Lanka is buying less chilli from us because certain developments have taken place in that country in recent times affecting their trading and buying capacity also. But anyway, we expect that this year the position will improve and some talks are going on.

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether we

are self-sufficient in farm products—at least in those farm products which are being exported from India. I would also like to know what arrangements are being made to develop export of farm products to foreign countries.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : As I have already referred in the beginning, some of the farm products are being canalised, we are exporting them to some foreign countries through NAFED, STC and so on. Some of the products are non-canalised. As far as the measures that we have taken are concerned, I have already mentioned in the House in the beginning that cash incentives are being given, we are liberalising certain policies in terms of import licences to get certain kind of machinery by which we can improve the production and send them for the export market. So far as self-sufficiency is concerned, all the data are available with the Agriculture Ministry. But I can only say that in most of the farm products we are gaining self-sufficiency and possibly by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan in some of the specific products we shall have some surpluses. For instance, we expect in sugar we can do this.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to formulate a long term policy for export of farm produce on the lines the long term policy has been formulated for the industries? The reason is that first you give cash incentive and then impose ban on that. This cannot solve any problem. We frequently read in newspapers also about export of the farm produce. Alongwith that there should be exemption on land ceiling also. The Government is thinking of establishing seed farms. I want to know the details of the scheme. I also want to know the views of the Government on the need to formulate a long term policy.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you must formulate a long term policy and consult the Agriculture Ministry also. Subsequently,

horticulture and fruits should also be added to that. (*Interruptions*)

The question of cotton export and many other questions are also connected with this scheme.

[English]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : I am taking it up with the Agriculture Ministry. We shall coordinate and so far as land ceiling is concerned, we will ask the Agriculture Ministry, Mango is a perennial crop like cashew and we shall coordinate with the Kerala Government.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mango crop, mango pulp, everything has to be done. It is quite an interesting question and all the Members are asking about this. You must coordinate with the Agriculture Ministry regarding these exports, and you need that money also. We need the foreign exchange.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I might inform the hon. Minister that if they utilise my constituency to export sweet mangoes, friendly relations also will grow.

MR. SPEAKER : Sweet exports !

The fruits are always sweet : the money too. They need it. Only .3 per cent you are processing. You have to do much more than that, Mr. Munsli.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : When will you taste Basumati rice ?

[Translation]

Facilities for Tourists in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*371. **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities presently available to attract Tourists to Andaman and Nicobar