

is that they have also booked certain orders. As I said, the details of those are not with me. But, apart from that, certain selected products also had been identified between me and the Swedish Minister for the purpose of export from India and for certain traditional items which we have been exporting to Sweden, she agreed to see that a better access to those products in their markets is available. Those products are sea-food, cotton fabrics, bed linen, furnishings, made-ups, garments, carpets, furniture, sports goods and precious and imitation jewellery. These are the various items. It is too early to predict the result of the meeting, but the matters are being monitored from time to time.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : May I know whether Geneva had recently undertaken a programme to be implemented with Swedish assistance for marketing products of Indian cottage industries, whether there was any interaction after the meeting with the Minister, whether the need for greater interaction between business communities of the two countries and more frequent dialogues at the Ministerial as well as official levels to promote bilateral trade has been examined and if so, the progress made in this regard.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Geneva ? I have not been able to properly appreciate the question, but I would like to say in a general form....

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I.T.C., Geneva.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : In a general way I would like to submit that after we had the Joint Commission meeting in October and later the discussions I had with the Trade Minister, the cooperation between the two countries with reference to increasing the trade has appreciably been there. I do not have, at this stage the resultant figures flowing therefrom, but I am confident that the bilateral trade that had been existing would be increased.

[Translation]

Production of Tea and Coffee

*331. **SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed any limit for export of tea and coffee ;

(b) if so, whether as a result thereof there will be lesser export of tea and coffee which will have adverse effect on the balance of trade ;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the quota fixed for export of tea and coffee;

(d) if so, when and the extent to which it is proposed to be increased ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) At present, there are no limits or restrictions imposed by the Government on exports of tea and coffee.

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

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand, the International Coffee Association has fixed only 39,000 tonnes as India's quota for export whereas our exportable surplus of coffee is about 1 lakh tonnes. The Indian Government has demanded several times in the International Coffee Association meetings that the quota be increased to 65,000 tonnes. On the other hand, for countries like Indonesia and Africa, this quota ranges from 42 per cent to 100 per cent. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would raise its voice against this injustice in the next meeting of the International Coffee Association to be held in April and will the Government be able to do more than what it has been able to do to-date ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : So far as the International Coffee Association is concerned, whatever our hon. friend has suggested is very true. They have fixed our quota at 39 thousand tonnes, but our exports are not limited to the countries which are affiliated to the International Coffee Association but are made to other countries also. So far as the April meeting is concerned, we shall continue our efforts for the enhancement of the quota as we had been doing earlier. Man lives on hope and we also hope that our quota of export will increase.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question concerns tea as well as coffee.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Please have patience.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : I will ask a question about coffee and Shri Bairagi will speak on tea because....

MR. SPEAKER : He will speak on opium.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : He speaks on opium in private; however, so far as tea is concerned, he takes a single cup when he has to pay for it but takes more when someone else pays for it. Hence he will speak on tea.

My second question is that the situation in the country is such that on the one hand, the prices are falling due to which the Government will have to suffer losses worth Rs. 30 or 40 crores. On the other hand, the countries with large scale production secure more purchase orders in their favour on the basis of votes. Recently, the International Coffee Association rejected the offer of the large scale producing countries for the first time because 15 lakh bags did not reach there. It is a ray of hope for us. I shall like to repeat my question and request you to take some action.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the export of coffee has been very good this year and the value per unit has also been better. We are going to export coffee worth Rs. 300 crores and because of the increase in the unit value we

shall continue to endeavour that our quota may be increased. If it is not increased then also there are other countries which are not affiliated to the International Coffee Association and our export to those countries is quite substantial. It is not that we only export to the countries which are the members of that association but we also export to other countries as well which are not affiliated to this Association.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I am asking with regard to tea and not with regard to coffee.

With regard to tea, we are exporting largely. India is one of the largest exporters of tea in the world even now. With regard to tea, the export market is being controlled only by the big planters like Tata and Birla. Even though I am a member of the Board, I am unable to control the export. (*Interruptions*) The Parliament Members are unable to get a seat in the Export Promotion Council Board also.

Because the export market is being controlled by the big planters like Tata and Birla, the small planters—those who are having about five acres or three acres—are unable to export their tea to various countries. I request the hon. Minister to come forward in order to see that the small planters' rights are being protected and their tea gets exported to other countries.

MR. SPEAKER : Or you make my hon. Members more effective on that Board.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : He is the Member. His term is likely to expire shortly. By the end of this month his term is expiring.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The only way to make the Member effective is to renew his membership.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, I appreciate his anxiety. Actually the auction system that we have started and which reigns in the entire tea sale system protects the interests of the small growers. In fact, because of this auction system the

all growers are getting better prices but when it comes to the question of export, the Tea Board obviously had been taking a lot of interest and I do compliment the Tea Board—of course, my hon. Member also—it is necessary that little more promotional activities with reference to tea exports have got to be undertaken. It is not true that big companies alone are picking up exports. We have allowed the public sector organisations also to take up the export of tea. In fact, the Tea Trading Corporation has also been asked but how far they succeed is a different matter because they have to purchase the tea from the open auctions and then export it.

In fact, the exports of value added tea fetches better prices. This year the performance of the value added tea has been dismal for which I myself am little upset. I am sure when once value added tea starts being exported we will be able to get better prices. The unit value will rise this year as the situation is, the prices that are likely to be fetched in the exports are not that encouraging. Last year with 223 million kg of exports we were able to get Rs 674.25 crores. This year the quantity is also slightly less and by now I am not satisfied because we have not even touched Rs. 600 crores. So it is for the Tea Board and the members of the Tea Board whom we are backing up so strongly that they should take necessary steps for increase in the exports.

SHRI HAREN BHUMIJ : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that in 1985 and 1986 from the Tea Board approximately equal amount of tea exports were done but from the available data it is clear that in the last two years tea has been exported in equal quantities but it could fetch lesser amount in 1986 as compared to 1985. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is due to the fact that quality of tea produced in 1986 was inferior as compared to 1985?

Secondly, whether the export could not fetch the desired amount because the tea produced in tea gardens could not reach the auction centres in time as that deteriorates the quality of the tea.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I am sorry to submit that both the assumptions

of the honourable Member are not correct. In 1984-85, the quantity that was exported was 217 million kgs and we got Rs. 771.39 crores. In 1985-86, the exports were to the tune of quantity-wise 222.92 million kgs and the value that we got was less. As I said, it was total valued added, etc., coming to Rs. 674.25 crores. In 1986-87, so far from April to December, it is 161.85 million kgs that has been exported and in terms of value it is Rs. 491.03 crores.

Now the submission is this that we have very strong competitors in Kenya, Sri Lanka and Brazil. Because of the competition and when their produce goes up—the growth rate being appreciable in those countries—we have got to compete our product with the product of these countries. When the crop in these countries is good, the prices come down and it affects us also. Actually the position is this year there is a less production of 40 million kgs so far as our country is concerned and the prices were not firming up till October last. I had been watching every month. The prices were at a very low ebb because the other countries were in a position to bring their produce with a better crop into the market and reduce the prices. But the prices started firming up from October. Now the situation is that if the crops are good in the other countries and if the crop is not good in our country, then it has got the resultant effect. If the crops are bad in the other countries and if the crop is good in our country, naturally the value goes up. So, it is dependent on this major act of God.

Exports to USA

*334. **SHRI BEZAWADA PAPI REDDY :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of goods exported to the United States of America in 1984-85 and 1985-86; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned thereby during the last two years and the efforts made by Government to increase exports to U.S.A. ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.