

Taking-over of Export of Spices

*364. SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over the export of spices; and

(b) whether a separate Corporation is proposed to be established for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). There are many varieties of commodities categorised commonly as spices and Government have been taking steps from time to time to strengthen marketing of different varieties of spices. The question of setting up a separate Corporation for taking over exports of all spices has not been so far considered.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: May I know if the Government have got any assessment of the loss in foreign exchange as a result of the hotch-potch and purely profit-making machinations of the private exporters? If so, how do the government make up for the loss in foreign exchange as a result of the faulty policy?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: As I said in the main reply, there are more than 19 items which are generally categorised as spices. In the case of pepper, the export is to the tune of Rs. 14.9 crores and in the case of cardamom Rs. 8.6 crores. There are certain minor items like curries, cumiseed and celery seed etc. So, it may be difficult to formulate a uniform policy for all these minor items which are produced all over the country. About the main items we are taking special care because any changes in production and fluctuation in prices cause harm to the producers. The price stabilisation policy is being looked into.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Out of these 19 items the two main items are cardamom and pepper where the variation in prices may be attributed possibly to the export market. But how do the government propose to stabilise the prices of these commodities? Secondly, how do the government propose to substitute the present policy by its own policy to safe the foreign exchange loss that is there today for the government?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I agree with the hon. Member that there is price fluctuation, especially in the case of pepper and cardamom. Recently, we formed the pepper community of the important producing countries like Malaysia and Indonesia to pool together resources and formulate policies so that we may not be at the mercy of the big cartels who are operating in the consuming countries. In the case of cardamom, the main producers are Guatemala and Tanzania. We are in touch with the Tanzanian Government and they have provisionally accepted the idea of a cardamom community so that the producing countries can join together and stabilise the price to avoid unhealthy competition. I do not share the view of the hon. Member that there is a lot of racket going on in this market.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में बताया कि 19 वस्तुएं ऐसी हैं जो हम बाहर भेजते हैं और यह सब प्राइवेट लोगों के द्वारा भेजी जाती हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितने व्यक्तियों के द्वारा यह माल बाहर भेजा जाता है और कितने मूल्य का माल प्रति वर्ष भेजते हैं तथा उस को भेजते समय इस बात का ध्यान क्या रखा जाता है कि यदि इन वस्तुओं का उत्पादन देश में कम है तो उत्पादन कम होने के कारण जो उस का मूल्य बढ़ता है उस पर किसी प्रकार का कंट्रोल किया जावे ?

दूसरा प्रश्न मेरा यह है कि यह जो माल भेजा जाता है उस के एवज में बाहर से पैसा आता है या उस के एवज में माल मंगाते हैं ? यदि माल मंगाते हैं तो कौन कौन सा माल विदेश से आता है और कितनी मात्रा में आता है ?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about the setting up of a corporation. The Minister could have said "yes" or "no". But he went out of his way and gave so much material. Now the hon. Member is asking about the price and I cannot prevent him.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I will be happy to supply as much information to the House as I can.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not happy because then members will go beyond the scope of the question.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: About the number of exporters for these 19 varied items, it will be difficult to give the list right now because it is a long list. About the quantum of exports, in 1971-72, the total exports of spices were to the tune of Rs. 38 crores and, in 1972-73, there was a slight short-fall and the exports were to the tune of Rs. 36 crores. So, there was a shortfall of Rs. 2 crores combined for all these 19 items.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : मैंने यह भी पूछा था कि वहाँ से पैसा आता है या इसके एवज में माल मंगाया जाता है ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: It is not a barter; it is a straight offer and we get foreign exchange.

किसानों को विकास प्रयोजनों के लिए
रकम देने सम्बन्धी योजना को
समाप्त करना

*365. श्री विमूक्ति मिश्र : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विभिन्न राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों ने किसानों को विकास सम्बन्धी कर्ज देने की योजना को वर्ष 1973 से बन्द कर दिया है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री विमूक्ति मिश्र : अध्यक्ष जी, सरकार कहती है कि कर्जा देना हम लोगों ने बन्द नहीं किया है। किसान कहते हैं कि हम बैंक में जाते हैं तो कहा जाता है कि किसानों को कर्जा देना बन्द कर दिया गया है। मैं जनाब चाहता हूँ कि 1971 और 1972 में सरकार ने नेशनलाइज्ड बैंकों में किसानों को विकास योजना के लिये कितना रुपया कर्जा देने के लिए रखा ? कितनी दरखास्तें पेंडिंग पड़ी रहीं, जितना रुपया इस काम के लिए एलाट हुआ, वह सब चुक गया और किसानों को कर्जा नहीं मिला ?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: I have got the information and I can give it to the hon. Member. As to what is the finance given to agriculturists or farmers in different years, I have got the figures of all the scheduled Banks, public sector Banks. In 1970, the loans given to agriculturists were to the tune of Rs. 301 crores. In December, 1970, it became Rs. 354 crores. In June, 1972, the latest figure available is Rs. 388 crores. There is a slight rise. I will not claim that there is a big rise. But certainly there is a slight rise.

श्री विमूक्ति मिश्र : यह नहीं बताया कि कितनी दरखास्तें पेंडिंग पड़ी हैं—