

MR. SPEAKER : He cannot give the information.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Is that true or not? I want that information. Who are behind all this? You are talking big and you say that you are doers.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : They have not been transferred because of any allegation. The transfers have been effected in the normal course. And we are not talking big. We are very serious on this and we are for action.....*

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Please pull him up Sir.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This does not form part of the record. I am giving my ruling. Please listen..... (Interruptions)

You can listen to it. This is what I am saying. Hon. members, I would like members and the Minister both, to be relevant to the question put. That is all, you see!

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You may kindly make the observation if you think it fit that references to the West Bengal Government should not become the last refuge of the Ministers who are incapable of answering questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : In repartee, it happens at certain times. It is not made sarcastically.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will that form part of the record Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : No.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Then, we are satisfied.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : There should not be any allegation that there is a Government in West Bengal!

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Poojary has distributed a pinck of *prasada*, that is why they feel inconvenient.

MR. SPEAKER : Sometimes, one cannot digest it.

[English]

Export of Ago-Based Product

*170. SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of the ago-based products exported during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) whether there is a big scope to boost this industry and increase the export of agro-based products ;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the finding of this survey and what measures are being taken to increase our export of such items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA : (a) to (d) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The value of exports of principal agricultural and agro-based products (excluding textile goods) during the last 3 years were as under :

	(Rs. in crores)		
	1981-82	1982-83	(1983-84)
		(Provisional)	(Provisional)
	2376	2295	2463

*Not recorded.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. There is scope for increasing the exports of agro-based products from India. Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi has undertaken surveys in respect of certain selected commodities. Government has taken a number of measures to increase their exports, such as cash compensatory support, import replenishment to registered exporters, facility of duty drawback, assistance for market development, encouragement to exports in value-added packs, periodic discussions with State Agricultural Export Commissioners for increasing the production of exportable agricultural and agro-based products, etc. For the promotion of exports of agro-based products, institutional changes like setting up of Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Spices Board are envisaged.

[Translation]

SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA : The reply given by the hon. Minister is all right for reply sake, but he has no proposal with him to give incentive to the farmer who produces by the sweat of his brow. I want to know from the hon. Minister what new changes he is going to make in the policy for export of agro-based products to benefit the farmer, as otherwise the farmer who is called "father" of the world, will not remain as such ?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I think exports do help the farmers, but I do not think it will be possible on my part to enumerate everything. I can only cite few examples. For example take the coffee growers. Now, we have introduced a system of pooling. It does help the coffee growers. We have introduced a system of auctioning for tobacco and Mr. Ranga will be happy to hear this. So all these measures which we have undertaken do help the farmers to get the remunerative prices.

[Translation]

SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA : Mr. speaker, Sir, cotton is extensively

grown in Gujarat, the maximum production being in my constituency Chhota Udaipur. But, the prices offered for cotton to the farmers this year have broken their back-bone. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to give concession to the co-operative Societies for the export of cotton or not?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Actually this question relates to the Minister of Textiles.

MR. SPEAKER : Because it is a raw material so it comes under the Commerce Ministry. Export of cotton does not come under this.... ..

MR. P.A. SANGMA : We have some relation with it. I know Sir you had intervened in the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER : Then, at least do not import cotton.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether 10 lakh tonnes of sugar was exported @ Rs. 2.50 per kilo gram through S.T.C. in 1983-84? The present situation would not have arisen had the Government not exported sugar and had instead created buffer stock in the country. Will the Government consider creating a buffer stock?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Vijay Kumar Mishra.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied to.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Sangma, have you understood his question ? Here he is

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 PUKOHIT : 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?