

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: अभी हम इधर ही रहेंगे।

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister whether rules do not permit to get two quarters if husband and wife are Government employees. But there are cases where such violations have taken place. My question, therefore, is specific. How many such violations have taken place where husband and wife both living together but have been allotted two quarters? Sir, the Government has already shown us the way as to how they would treat such cases by promoting the biggest violator, an hon. Member, by making him the Chairman of the House Committee who allots houses. Therefore, I would like to have a specific answer from the Minister as to how many such cases are there and how many twin houses have been allotted to the Government employees or others?

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question is outside the purview of this question. If any specific cases are there, definitely, I will....

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: In Laxmibi Nagar, two houses have been given to one couple.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Are there any cases of wife and husband who are Government servants getting two houses?

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: The names of allottees in Laxmibai Nagar are: (1) Shri Santosh Mathur; (2) Shri R.K. Talwar; (3) Ms. Nisha Bhardwaj. These were allotted in 1997; (4) Shri R.P. Sharma; (5) Shri Inder Ahuja; (6) Shri S.C. Jain; (7) Shri Chauhan Singh; (8) Shri R.P. Chauhan and (9) Shri Anil Kaushik. These have been allotted in 1998. We have taken some action. I think these are only allottees.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Are there any couples who have been given two houses? Both

of them are entitled, but only one person can get a Government quarter.

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: At the moment, I don't have. From the list available with me, I don't find it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 202.

Tea and coffee Plantation in Non-traditional states

*202. **SHRI ANANTA SETHI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken tea and coffee plantation in some non-traditional States including Orissa on experimental basis;

(b) if so, since when and the results thereof; and

(c) the future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) *Tea:* Yes Sir. The Tea Board had introduced "New Tea Unit Financing Scheme" in the year 1982-83 for encouraging tea plantations in identified non-traditional areas including the State of Orissa. A joint venture project was launched in Keonjhar Distt. of Orissa during 1983-84 under which an area of 210.00 Hectares was planted with tea. Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 52.50 lakhs as loan and Rs. 31.50 lakhs as subsidy was provided for this purpose. During the 9th Five Year Plan Period the "New Tea Unit Financing Scheme" has been merged with "New Area Development Scheme" for tea plantation in non-traditional areas other than the North East. A total sum of Rs. 1993.35 lakhs in the form of loan and subsidy has been disbursed so far for undertaking tea plantation over an area of 4991.39 Hectares in non-traditional areas. In 1997, tea production in non-traditional areas was approximately 76.28 million kgs. During August 1997, a feasibility study was con-

ucted by the Tea Board and the Tea Research Association covering Districts of Rayagada, Kalahandi and Keonjhar of Orissa State and these areas have been found suitable for tea cultivation subject to providing artificial irrigation. During the 9th Plan Period, it is proposed to bring 20,000 Hectares of land in the Non-Traditional areas under tea cultivation.

Coffee: In so far as coffee is concerned, cultivation in non-traditional states including Orissa has been taken up since 1976. A target of 72,000 ha. of coffee plantation was envisaged in all the non-traditional areas. Since then, a total of 20,946 ha. has been brought under coffee cultivation in these areas. Coffee Board has encouraged coffee cultivation in the non-traditional areas through its various research and extension programmes. During the year 1997-98, a total of 2000 MT of Coffee has been produced in the non-traditional areas. Consolidation and expansion of area under coffee is envisaged in non-traditional areas apart from increasing the production and productivity in the traditional areas, so as to achieve the targeted production of 3 lakh tonnes per annum by the turn of the century. Coffee Board has proposed a comprehensive programme in the Ninth Plan to support consolidation and expansion of coffee area in non-traditional areas which includes providing subsidy for inputs, planting materials and marketing support. An outlay of Rs. 22 crores has been earmarked for this programme in the 9th plan period.

SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in the reply itself that a joint venture project was launched during 1983-84 in the district of Keonjhar in our State of Orissa and financial assistance was also provided to the tune of Rs. 52.50 lakhs as loan and Rs. 31.50 lakhs as subsidy. It has been stated that in 1997 there was a study conducted by the Tea Board and the Tea Research Association and it was found that other potential areas were there in Orissa. They are Ravagada, Kalahandi and Keonjhar. It is

also mentioned that they will take up these districts provided artificial irrigation facilities are available. But, so far as I know, there is no problem with the irrigation system in these districts. These are all tribal districts in the State. Since 1983-84 to 1997, only one joint venture project was taken up in the District of Keonjhar which is a tribal-dominated district? I know that the tea, that is being produced there is of a very high quality and 100 per cent export-oriented tea. From 1983 to 1997, there was no other step taken by the Tea Board or the Government to extend this facility to other areas and that was revealed in 1997 only by conducting a research study. Always...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put the question, please.

SHRI ANANTA SETHI: I am putting my question, Sir. There is a wide gap between the target fixed and the actual production. It is said in the reply that it is proposed to bring 20,000 hectares of land in the non-traditional States under tea cultivation during the Ninth Plan period. I would like to know whether they would give more emphasis to these districts to produce high quality tea. These districts are tribal-dominated districts and I would like to know whether they will give employment guarantee to the people below the poverty line there by extending the scheme to them. And, how many hectares of land are they going to take up in these three districts?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, it has already been stated that the target set for the Ninth Plan is to bring 20,000 hectares of additional land in the non-traditional areas under tea cultivation and the areas identified....(Interruptions).

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, I have a point of order. As you may remember, the other day, we had a discussion about the Ninth Plan. The Prime Minister and the Minister concerned have made the point that the Government has not yet finalised the Ninth Plan and therefore,

they cannot give any firm figures about the Ninth Plan. Now, the Minister informs us about the target that has been fixed for the Ninth Plan. Which position is correct?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Mr. Minister, please reply to the supplementary.

SHRI SOMPAL: My reply is that till now, it is proposed. I have not said that it has been finalised.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: You mention that.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is proposed to bring 20,000 hectares of additional land in non-traditional areas under tea cultivation. The non-traditional areas which are declared are Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Garhwal, Kumaon Hills in U.P., non-tea growing areas in the districts of Idukki and Wynad in Kerala, Kodagu in Karnataka, Kodaikkanal and Anamalais in Tamil Nadu, North Kachar Hills and Karbi Anglong districts in Assam, Southern Districts in Tripura and Mandi and Chamba districts in Himachal Pradesh. A sum of Rs. 19 crores was disbursed by the Tea Board under this scheme during the Eighth Five-Year Plan. And the above scheme or the New Development Scheme has been replaced by two new schemes for the Ninth Five-Year Plan period. One is the Tea Development Scheme for North-Eastern States for control of Jhum cultivation and 15,000 hectares is proposed to be brought under this scheme with a proposed expenditure of Rs. five crores, and the second is the New Area Development Scheme. This scheme is applicable to the non-traditional areas other than the North-Eastern areas, and 5,000 hectares of additional land is proposed to be brought under this scheme, with an outlay of Rs. 2.5 crores. These are the steps which we are taking to increase production of tea in the non-traditional areas.

SHRI ANANTA SETHI: I would like to know as to how many hectares of land they plan to include under this cultivation in Orissa. District-wise break-up may be given. I have learnt that the Tea Board is encouraging the private companies to undertake coffee and tea plantation in the non-traditional areas. I would like to know as to how many companies have been encouraged in the non-traditional areas and they are also provided with the financial assistance, together with the subsidies. May I know how many acres of land have been given to them? What has been their contribution in respect of growth of tea and its export?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, the hon. Member has just repeated the question. The area which has already been brought under cultivation, has been stated in the written reply, and the proposed area is 20,000 hectares. So far as district-wise break-up is concerned, the information has to be collected and it will be supplied to the hon. Member.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, at one time, India was considered to be the largest producer and exporter of tea, the world-over. Lately, our existing plantation is fast losing its yield, thereby making our tea more expensive in comparison to countries like Kenya, Sri Lanka and China. What steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, India accounts for 30 per cent of the global tea production. The total global output in 1997 was estimated at 2,718.04 million kgs, and India's production was 810.61 million kgs. So far as export is concerned, the world trade of tea during the year 1997 was 1145 million kgs and the share of India in the world trade during 1997 was 17.72%. The export of tea during 1997-98 was 211.76 million kgs, thereby registering an increase of 42.72 million kgs. over the previous year. The export of tea during the current year, that is, 1998-99, up to October, has shown a decrease of 0.35 million kgs., in quantity terms. But it has registered an increase, in value terms, to

the tune of Rs. 214.65 crores. The exports have been showing buoyancy of late, and the figures are, during 1997-98, the total quantity exported was 211.76 million kgs. at a rate of Rs. 92.27 per kg., as against Rs. 76.99 of the previous year, and during this year it has registered a total increase, in percentage terms, to the tune of 50.13 per cent over the previous year, and the total value exported was 525.74 million US dollars. So, it is not correct to say that we are losing exports. Rather, we had increased our exports and even during the current year, till October, an increase of 19.75 per cent has been registered over the previous year.

श्री संजय निरूपमः चेयरमैन सर, मंत्री महोदय ने बड़े बड़े आंकड़े दिए हैं कि चाय का इतना उत्पादन हो गया, इतना एक्सपोर्ट हो गया। लेकिन मंत्री महोदय यह बताना भूल गए कि पिछले कुछ सालों में वर्ल्ड मार्केट में हमारा शेयर जो था, जो हम सबसे बड़े एक्सपोर्टर थे, अब हम दूसरे नंबर पर आ गए हैं, यह बताना मंत्री महोदय शायद भूल गए हैं। तो मूल प्रश्न यह है कि चाय का प्लांटेशन और कॉफी का प्लांटेशन बढ़ाने की दिशा में क्या किया जा रहा है? मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे पास पहले से ही चाय का प्रोडक्शन बहुत ज्यादा है। हम सब से बड़े प्रोड्यूसर वर्ल्ड में हैं। इतना प्रोडक्शन होने के बावजूद भी हम वर्ल्ड मार्केट में अपना शेयर नहीं बढ़ा पा रहे हैं और भी ज्यादा प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाने के बाद स्थिति क्या आएगी, क्या फिर नये क्राइसेस पैदा नहीं हो जाएंगे? एक और जानकारी मैं मंत्री महोदय को देना चाहता हूँ, शायद वह बताना भूल गये हैं। पूरी दुनिया में चाय का कंजम्पशन सब से ज्यादा आयरलैंड में होता है और शायद वह सब से छोटा प्रोड्यूसर है, बहुत कम चाय का प्रोडक्शन वहां होता है। महोदय, पांचवा नम्बर हमारा आता है, जहां तक पर केपिटल कंजम्पशन का सवाल है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में चाय का कंजम्पशन बढ़ाने की दिशा में क्या प्रयास हो रहा है? सिर्फ प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाया गया है, कंजम्पशन भी बढ़ाया गया है या नहीं?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, in India, domestic consumption of tea has been increasing steadily @ 4 per cent per annum, and in 1995 the total consumption was 595 m. Kgs; in 1996, 618 m. kgs. and in 1997,

640 m. kgs. So, it is already increasing at twice the pace of population-increase. So, it is not correct to assume that consumption is going down.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Consumption is going down, यह मैं नहीं बोल रहा हूँ (व्यवधान) मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कंजम्पशन बढ़ाने के लिए क्या किया जा रहा है? (व्यवधान)

SHRI SOMPAL: It is already increasing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thirunavukkarasu ... (interruptions) ... Mr. Thirunavukkarasu ... (interruptions)... Next, Mr. thirunavukkarasu.

SHRI C.P. thirunavukkarasu: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I want to know from the Minister what steps are being taken by the Government scientifically to improve coffe and tea plantations, what steps are being taken for marketing tea and coffee cultivation in non-traditional areas, and whether the cultivation in non-traditional areas is profitable.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, the steps which are being taken to increase coffee plantation and production in non-traditional areas include providing subsidy for inputs providing inputs such as plant material to the planters, market support and consolidation of 10,000 hectares, which is already there, expansion of 7,000 hectares of coffee area in the north eastern region and expansion of 12,500 hectares and 3,000 hectares of rejuvenation in non-traditional areas like Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, which includes providing 50 per cent subsidy for inputs and planting material and assistance for marketing support. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Coffee Board has been implementing a special package scheme for coffee development in Orissa under which a subsidy of Rs. 15,000/- per hectare is to be borne by the beneficiaries. These are certain schemes. And, Sir, for development of coffee in Orissa, that is a non-traditional area, the Coffee Board, on an average, spends Rs. 40-50 lakhs and Rs. 10-12 lakhs per annum on R&D and

extension activities respectively. For increasing export also, a target of 1,65,000 tonnes has been set, and 1,79,054 tonnes of coffee has been exported with a value realisation. All these things are designed to increase coffee production in non-traditional areas...(interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. That is finished now. Mr. Virumbi.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the United States and Europe, the choice and use of instant tea have been increasing. There is a wide-spread complaint in India that the contribution of instant tea export to the total tea export is not considerable, if we compare it with other important tea exporting countries. I want to know whether the Government has taken this issue seriously; if so, what action has been taken to improve the export of instant tea and what the percentage of instant tea export in the total tea export is, in terms of both value and volume.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, it is right that the liking for instant tea is increasing and Tea Board is taking steps to popularise instant tea, and also other forms of tea. Particularly after the liking in the western countries has changed, from cold tea to hot tea, the Tea Board has stepped up its activities to propagate these specialised items to the liking of the western countries, particularly Europe and America. So far as the quantity of instant tea export as part of the total tea export is concerned, the figures are not available. I will try to find them out and give them to the hon. Member.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, in the areas around the Kumaon region tea plantation are being done. I can assure you that there is little maintenance and care of the plants after the subsidy is taken. Instead of putting the money in, and getting the farmers to go in for a crop which is subject to such variations in prices and income all over the world, would it not be better to go in for, and spend the same scale of money, and give

the same type of subsidy for rehabilitation and revival of medicinal plants of the Himalayas and encourage the farmers to go in for these? Instead of going in for a crop, which is a dying crop, which is subject to such enormous fluctuations, would it not be better to go in for this?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, though the question is not even remotely related to the present question, since the hon. Member has raised it, I appreciate his concern and the Government is alive to the situation. India has a great potential in terms of biodiversity and specifically in terms of medicinal plants and aromatic plants. In terms of plant material, we have a total of 48,000 varieties of plants in India. This is eleven per cent of the total world heritage though our area is only two per cent. He is also right that the biodiversity is under stress. A lot of material is going out and they are becoming extinct. There are not efforts so far, and there have never been, to preserve and conserve this heritage. He is right in saying that we should promote the cultivation of medicinal plants and aromatic plants which have a vast potential not only in terms of producing for indigenous consumption but also in terms of exports. The Government is undertaking a large-scale programme—it is under my Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture—not only to conserve the biodiversity but also to utilise them for commercial production as commercial crops and the farmers are likely to be helped for this purpose. A novel experiment is being done in the State of Kerala at the Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute, where they have identified several hundreds of varieties of such plants in Silent Valley. Similar institutions and organisations will be set up to take care of this biodiversity not only for conservation purposes but also for commercial utilisation.

Non Payment of Minimum Wages in Madhya Pradesh

*203. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: