

to nappen to the report thereafter? What is the Government doing?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was set up in 1992. The first report was submitted and it was circulated to various departments. We are awaiting comments of various departments. After getting them, we will compile them and place them before the House.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

Why were the other reports not placed before the House? The reports submitted after 1993 are not before the Government. How much time will the Department take to submit the report to the Government?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had submitted 30 reports. Of them, 29 reports have been placed before the House and they have been discussed. Likewise, the Commission also submitted eight reports which have been circulated and placed before the House. These have also been discussed. The new Commission was constituted in 1992. As I said, it has submitted its first report and it is being circulated and we will be placing it on the Table of the House.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Is there any definite plan to increase the number of beneficiaries and to upgrade the merit of SC and ST students for the post-matric scholarship given by the Central Government?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I need a separate notice to answer this.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: I want to know when the report of 1992-93 was laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I have said that it has been circulated to various departments and we are awaiting comments of the departments. As soon as we

get them, we will place them on the Table of the House.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: As it is being delayed, we want an assurance from the Minister that it will be placed before the Parliament very soon.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not the Minister concerned.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: It will be placed before the House at the earliest. I will pass on his concern to my colleague.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ensure that the departments to which this has been circulated, send their comments immediately so that it can be placed before the House as soon as possible.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Yes, madam.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Is there any proposal with the Government to include the Fishermen community in Scheduled Tribes? I came to know that in 1970, the Government had introduced a Bill to include the Fishermen community in Scheduled Tribes. I want to know whether there is any such proposal.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, as of now, I have no information. I will ask my colleague to reply to him in writing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Remember the number of the question and write to him.

*244[The Questioner (Shri Ahmed Patel) was absent. For answer, vide col-
.....infra]

Smuggling of Cardamom from Guatemala

*245. **SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:**
SHRI JOY NADUKKARA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint about the smuggling of Cardamom from Guatemala finding its way from Calcutta Harbour to Nepal;

(b) whether Government have also received any complaints alleging that smuggled Guatemala Cardamom is capturing the market and traders are not buying Indian Cardamom; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (Shri Kinjarappu Yerran—Kaidu): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House. Growers of cardamom have represented that cardamom from Guatemala imported by Nepal is finding its way into India. All concerned customs authorities and their field formations are vigilant to prevent any smuggling including that of cardamom to India.

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: About three lakh families which are engaged in cardamom cultivation have been affected because of smuggling of cardamom from Guatemala. The peasantry and workers in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are suffering because of this. In his reply, the Minister has stated that our concerned customs authorities and their field formations are vigilant. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any quantity of cardamom has been seized so far or any cases have been filed against these smugglers?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Madam, the growers of cardamom have represented to the Government that the Guatemalan cardamom imported by Nepal is being smuggled into Calcutta port and also through the borders of Nepal. Already instructions have been given to the Customs Department and its field formations to be vigilant to arrest these smugglers who smuggle everything including cardamom. So far we have not seized anything, but in Nepal,

which is a small country, they are importing cardamom more than the requirement. That is why our diplomatic channels are requesting the Nepalese authorities to organise their imports of such sensitive items to meet the genuine requirements of Nepal. We are taking all steps to prevent smuggling and everything.

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Madam, I seek your protection. My question was, we are raising these complaints for so many years. I would like to know whether any quantity of cardamom has been seized by our authorities or have they arrested anybody in connection with smuggling? That is my first question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Was anybody arrested?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: No arrests have been made so far.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Did you find anybody carrying cardamom illegally?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Yes, yes, that is going on. That is why we are taking all steps. Madam, smuggling is there. That is a fact. That is why we are giving instructions to the customs people and farmers and field formations in that particular area not to allow smuggling to take place in future.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What he means is that the Government is aware that smuggling is going on but they have never been able to catch anybody who smuggled cardamoms.

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Madam, I am shocked that the Government is aware of smuggling and the Government is not taking any action. That means Government is aiding smuggling and smuggling is causing a lot of miseries in Kerala, in Karnataka and

in Tamil Nadu. If you look at the production figures, Madam, there is a phenomenal increase during the last five years. In 1992-93, the production was 4,250 metric tons and it rose to 6,600 metric tons in 1993-94 and now it is 7,900 metric tons. If we look at India's export to foreign countries we can see a drastic decline. So actually our export is affected by this thing and our three lakh peasantry and workers are affected and the Government is aware of this smuggling and the Government is not taking any steps. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is helping the smugglers and causing ruin to the peasantry and the workers of this country.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: No, Madam, not only for cardamom, for any smuggling we are taking preventive steps. But in Nepal, it is a small country, they are importing cardamom from Guatemala. On the way to Nepal something is smuggled. A representation is made by the All India Spices' Importers and Distributors Association. But the production of small cardamom in India has risen over the years and is currently estimated to be around 7,500 metric tons. But in 1986-87, the world trade in cardamom was dominated by India and exports from India accounted for 30 per cent of the domestic production. But for Guatemala cardamom, international markets are offering at cheap prices, that is why our exports are declining. That is why this Government is taking a lot of steps to prevent smuggling and to do something for the farmers of cardamom.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghavji.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Madam, my name is also there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, your name is here. Mr. Raghavji, please sit down. I will call you after Mr. Nadukkara puts his question.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Thank you, Madam Deputy Chairman. We are exporting cardamom and earning some foreign exchange. Our exports of cardamom reached its zenith in the year 1985-86. In that year, we exported 3272 MTs of cardamom. After 1985-86, our exports of cardamom fell down. In 1989-90, we could export only 173 MTs. From this time onwards, the Government of India have been taking some steps, giving some subsidies and other incentives to the cardamom exporters. Those subsidies and incentives are still there. During 1995-96, we exported 500 MTs of cardamom. But what I am not able to understand is that we are importing cardamom even as we are exporting it. I put a question on 22.7.96. The written reply which was given to me indicated that during 1995-96 the total imports of cardamom was 2626.53 MTs. The question is: On the one hand, we are giving subsidies and incentives and, on the other, we are importing. We are importing cardamom from Guatemala. This is quite contradictory. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government would take steps to completely stop import of cardamom and continue the subsidies, incentives which are being given to the cardamom exporters.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: While we are discussing the cardamom issue, I received a cardamom from Mr. Hanumanthappa. I don't know whether it is of India or of Guatemala. Anyway, I thank Mr. Hanumanthappa.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Madam, so far we did not import any quantity of cardamom from any country.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: But the hon. Member is quoting from a written reply given to him in this House.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Madam, the hon. Member was saying that we were importing cardamom and that we were not giving remunerative prices to the cardamom farmers. During

the year 1985-86, the production of cardamom was 4700 MTs. and we exported 3272 MTs. Last year, our production was 7900 MTs and we exported 500 MTs. Due to international market conditions, our production cost has gone up. Our farmers are spending more money. In Guatemala, the cost of production is very low. That is why they have been able to offer global tenders in the international market. Because of this, our exports had declined. Our exports have been declining from 1992-93 onwards. However, we are taking several steps to stabilise the prices and boost our exports. We are giving support to the cardamom exports at Rs. 35/- per kilogram. From 1st December, 95 to 31st March, 96, we exported 600 MTs of cardamom. We have also taken steps to meet the export development cost at a total cost of Rs. 2.10 crores so as to enable our exporters to penetrate into the international market and to shore up the domestic prices. Like that, we are giving support price at Rs. 35/- a kilogram for meeting the cost of exports. Six hundred MTs were exported by air Consumer tax on exports to the Middle East destinations were exempted during the period from 1.12.95 to 31.3.96. Like that, we are giving some benefits to the cardamom growers. We had also exempted the exports of cardamom from the 2% cess, which is imposed on spices exports, during the period from 1.12.95 to 31.3.96. Like that, we are giving some exemptions, subsidies, etc., so as to make our export prices competitive in the international market.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Madam, my second supplementary is...(interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can only put one supplementary because the question is a joint one. I hope the answer given to your supplementary is to your satisfaction. I will now call Shri Raghavji.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Madam, please allow me for a second.

Madam, I am sorry to say that the information given to me on 22.7.96 is quite contradictory to what the Minister has said just now. In reply to my question No. 178 on 22.7.96, it was stated that we imported 53.36 MTs of small cardamom, 2552.25 MTs of large cardamom, 20.92 MTs of other cardamom. The total imports in respect of cardamom were put at 2626.53 MTs.

Madam, this is the answer given before this House — the written answer.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When?

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: On 20.7.1996.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Madam, that is for the large cardamom, not for the small one. (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The big one? The large one?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Yes, Madam. (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen, I think I have understood him because being a woman I use cardamom in cooking. There are two types of cardamom. One is a small cardamom and the other is the big one, the black one. Why don't you explain it, Mr. Minister? (Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Madam, whatever the hon. Member has said is correct so far as the large cardamom is concerned. I was answering regarding the small one. We have not imported small cardamom so far.

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Madam, they have imported the small cardamom also...(Interruptions)

उपसभापति: छोटी और बड़ी, दोनों मंगाई हैं?

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Both were imported.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: But I have no information on this, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think you are the Minister for Commerce. Or, are you also doing somebody else's job? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Up to 1993-94, the figures...

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: 1995-96.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: No, no. Up to 1993-94, for small cardamom... *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think you better find out because if you go on like this, there will be a lot of problem. If they give another notice, there may not be another session. Immediately, they may not get it and in the next session, it will depend on so many other things. And by that time a lot of cardamom growers will suffer. I do not know whether Raghavji was also asking the same question.

राघवजी, क्या आप भी यही सवाल पूछने वाले हैं छोटी और बड़ी इलायची के झगड़े का?

श्री राघवजी: नहीं मैडम, मेरा सवाल थोड़ा अलग है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर से सरकार की स्थिति और स्वयं की स्थिति हास्यास्पद बना दी है। पहली बात तो उन्होंने यह कही कि स्मगलिंग हो रही है।

उपसभापति: हां, स्मलिंग हो रही है।

श्री राघवजी: फिर उन्होंने कहा कि हम उन्हें पकड़ नहीं पा रहे हैं और कस्टम अधिकारियों से कह दिया गया है कि पकड़ा जाए तो यह भी एक हास्यास्पद बात है। दूसरी बात यह है कि छोटी और बड़ी, दोनों इलायची मंगाई गई हैं। वे कह रहे हैं कि बड़ी इलायची मंगाई गई थी और फिर कह रहे हैं कि थोड़ी सी छोटी इलायची भी मंगाई गई थी। तीसरी हास्यास्पद बात यह है कि हम एक्सपोर्ट के लिए सबसिद्धी भी दे रहे हैं और इम्पोर्ट भी कर रहे हैं। ये तीनों बातें ऐसी हैं कि सारा मामला ही गड़बड़-घोटाले सा दिखाई दे रहा है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले तीन वर्षों से पूरे देश में इलायची उत्पादक परेशान हैं, यह पूरा देश जानता है कि उनको कीमती भी कम मिल रही है। अगर

सरकार ऐसी हालत में रही तो परेशानियाँ और बढ़ती जाएंगी इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में हमारे देश के अंदर छोटी और बड़ी, दोनों इलायची का कितना उत्पादन हुआ, कितना हमने निर्यात किया और कितना आयात किया है?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How much have you exported and how much have you imported? How much is the big one and how much is the small one?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Madam, I have already given figures for the year 1995-96. The production of cardamom... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHAVJI: I am asking for the last 3 years.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Yes, the last year. In the year 1995-96, the production was...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not the production. The exports and imports.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: The exports were only to the tune of 500 metric tons.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Madam, I am asking for production also.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Only 500 metric tons were exported.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: The last three years, Madam.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: In the year 1993-94, we have exported 338 metric tons. In 1994-95, we exported 255 metric tons. In 1995-96, up to this month, we have exported 650 metric tons.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Production and imports also. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: No imports were made. The production in 1993-94 was 600 metric tons. In 1994-95, it was 7,000 metric tons. In 1995-96, it was 7,900 metric tons. In 1996-97, up to this month, it has been 6,756 metric tons.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, cardamom is one of the major cash crops in southern India, particularly in Kerala. Occasionally, the Spices Board has taken the right steps to encourage export of cardamom even by giving subsidy. The main question is while we are encouraging export of cardamom even by giving subsidy and other methods, the hon. Minister denied having imported more than 50,000 tonnes of cardamom through different parties. I would like to know whether the Government would take steps to prevent any kind of encroachment of the Indian market by Guatemala through back door and completely ban import of cardamom under OGL or any other scheme. I would also like to know whether the Government would encourage farmers to export cardamom by giving subsidy to farmers.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Madam, the hon. Member has made a good suggestion. As far as smuggling of cardamom from Guatemala is concerned, even formal protest notes have been sent to the Government of Nepal, through diplomatic channels, requesting the Nepalese authorities to organise their import of such sensitive items to meet the genuine requirements of Nepal. Nepal is a small country and its consumption is very small, but it imported a large quantity of cardamom. As a result, there is scope for smuggling and other things.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: We export cardamom mainly to the Gulf region. In this regard, the Spices Board has taken certain steps. I would like to know whether you would encourage export of cardamom and give subsidy to farmers.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRAN NAIDU: Certainly, yes.

Payment of Transportation cost for Lifting Levy Sugar

*246. **SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:** Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not fair to grant actual transportation expenses to levy sugar nominee for the transport of levy sugar; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

छाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) और (ख) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रखा जा रहा है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) वास्तविक प्रभार दिए जाते हैं जो कुछ मानदण्डों पर आधारित होते हैं। 1.4.1996 तक निम्नानुसार ढुलाई प्रभार अदा किए जाते थे:—

“अथवा

(क) वास्तविक रेल भाड़ा; या

(ख) राज्य सरकार द्वारा अनुमोदित सड़क द्वारा वास्तविक ढुलाई प्रभार जो उस राज्य में खाद्यान्नों की ढुलाई के लिए भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा अनुमोदित ढुलाई प्रभारों की दर तक सीमित रखे जाते हैं। जहां भारतीय खाद्य निगम की दरें उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, राज्य सरकारों की दरें अनुमत की जाती हैं जो वास्तविक रेल भाड़े तक सीमित रखी जाती हैं। जहां भारतीय खाद्य निगम की दरें और रेलशेर्ष नहीं हैं वहां राज्य सरकारों की दरें अनुमत की जाएं।”

तथापि चूंकि इस विधि से प्रभारों की गणना करने में कुछ विलम्ब हो जाता है इसलिए इस प्रणाली को सरल बनाने का निर्णय लिया गया था। 1.4.1996 से लागू संशोधित मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्तों के अनुसार प्रत्येक राज्य के लिए परिवहन प्रभारों की एक निश्चित दर अनुमत की जाएगी जो पिछले वर्षों के दौरान वहन किए गए खर्च के लेखापरीक्षित आकड़ों के आधार पर निर्धारित की जाएगी और संबंधित राज्य सरकार द्वारा विधिवत अनुमोदित की जाएगी।

श्री बंगारू लक्ष्मण: मैडम, मंत्री जी ने मेरे सवाल का सीधा जवाब तो नहीं दिया, जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है उसके अन्दर उन्होंने कहा है कि

“...transportation charges would be allowed at a flat rate for each State to be fixed on the basis of audited figures of expenditure...” अब सवाल सीधा यह है कि जहां