

Export of spices from eastern region

2184. **SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spices export from Eastern Region has been showing a decline trend since last three years;

(b) if so, steps taken to increase the export of spices from Eastern Region;

(c) the projection made for the year 1996-97; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) The total value of spices exported has increased over the years as is evident from the details given below:—

| Year | Value (Rs. Lakh) |
|---------|------------------|
| 1993-94 | 57144.01 |
| 1994-95 | 62010.53 |
| 1995-96 | 78589.09 |

(SOURCE: DGCI&S Calcutta/Spices Board, Cochin)

Region-wise and state-wise export statistics are not maintained.

The target for export of spices for the year 1996-97 has been fixed at Rs. 824 crore.

Apart from the general trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance export of spices include abolition of cess with effect from 1.8.1996 on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), saffron, cardamom and spice oils and oleoresins to make them price competitive in international markets brand promotion schemes like "Logo Promotion", grant of "Spice House Certificate", product development to meet international needs and participation in international fairs and arranging buyer-seller meets.

Action against corrupt officials

2185. **SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item entitled "Government urged to oust corrupt officials" appearing in Hindustan Times, dated 22nd June, 1996;

(b) whether National Confederation of Officers Associations of Central Public Sector Undertakings had urged to weed out those Chairman and Directors of Public Sector Undertakings who are suspected for their corrupt dealings;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the Chairman against whom court proceedings are or were going on;

(e) action taken against such Chairman and Director;

(f) details of other changes urged by the Confederation for the proper functioning of public undertakings; and

(g) action taken/proposed to be taken on the suggestions of the Confederation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The National Confederation of Officers' Association of Central Public Sector Undertakings has not furnished any details of Chairmen and Directors who are suspected for their corrupt dealings.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) and (g). Other changes urged by the Confederation include removal of administrative tariffs, realisation of all dues from Government, removal of social obligations of PSUs, removal of restrictions on wage settlement, removal of PSUs from the purview of CAG and