

1	2	3	4
24	Nicargua	7.86	0.20
25	Panama Rep.	19.14	42.92
26	Paraguay	2.50	6.54
27	Peru	0.82	6.10
28	St. Lucia	0.03	0.05
29	Suriname	1.99	1.24
30	Trinidad & Tobago	2.73	5.00
31	Uruguay	1.12	3.26
32	Venezuela	9.83	16.88
33	Virgin Islands	0.01	0.03
TOTAL		149.01	298.33

Functioning of Coffee Board

2739. SHRI SOM PAL:

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coffee growers have recently complained to the Central Government about their problems and functioning of Coffee Board of India;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to solve the problems of the coffee growers and revamp the Coffee Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that the production and export of coffee is declining; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to rectify the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) and (b) Complaints received generally relate to:

1. Inadequacy of returns to growers;
2. Delay in payments to growers on account of delay in finalisation of Accounts;

3. Losses to the Growers' Pool fund due to the inefficient functioning of promotion units;

4. Malpractice in the Curing Works;

5. Inadequacy of Research efforts.

Action taken on the above are as follows:

1. Payment to growers depends upon the prices which the coffees fetch in the local market and also in international market. The sharp decline in prices in international market during the last 2 years has got reflected in total returns to growers.

2. Efforts are made to finalise accounts as early as possible so that payments could be effected early after the closure of accounts;

3. Selling price of Coffee Powder and Beans have been revised to be on a more rational basis and in tune with the prices prevailing in the market.

4. Rationalising functioning of Promotion Department and improve performance of Promotional Units.

5. Verification of stocks in Curing works.

6. A comprehensive Berry Borer control measure has been taken to ensure containing of Berry Borer disease.

(c) and (d) The production and export of coffee during 1991-92 have not declined when compared to 1990-91. However, there has been a shortfall in the exports during April-June, 1992 when compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. This is mainly due to the reason that in the last fiscal year, out of the total exports of 19,117 tonnes of Coffee in the first quarter a quantity of 11,750 tonnes were exported to erstwhile USSR through direct sales by the Coffee Board whereas in the current fiscal year, no direct sales to Russia could take place in the first quarter as the contract was finalised only during July 1992. Additionally, considerable drop in world prices in 1992 compared to 1991 have slackened exports. The situation is expected to improve with the shipment under the direct export contract with Russia taking place from August onwards. India is also participating actively in the on going negotiations for an International Coffee Agreement, which is expected to help improve the international price situation.

Problem in India's trade with Russia

2740. SHRI SOM PAL:

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is now problems between Russia and India on trade matters; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the problems and what is being done to resolve the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Border trade between India and China

2741. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and China have recently signed a protocol on the entry and exist procedures for border trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any control would be exercised over the entry of persons and goods;

(d) if so, in what manner such control would be exercised;

(e) whether Government propose to enlarge the trading scope with China by permitting the trade via Nepal through the Indo-Nepal borders in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) For entry and exit of persons, commodities and means of transport engaged in border trade, exchange of commodities and means of transport, Lipulikh (Qing la) pass will be the border pass, Gunji at Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh and Pulan in Tibet Autonomous Region of China has been designated as market sites for the trade. These sites will be open for trade during the period 1st June to 30th Sept., every year.

Travel pass will be issued to citizens on either side intending to engage in border trade. Persons commodities and means of transport of either party will be issued valid papers for entry and exit.

Parties to the agreement have set up checking and inspection agencies in order to exercise proper control over the entry and exit of persons, commodities and means of transportation.

(e) and (f) Governments of India and China have agreed for resumption of border trade for the present only as indicated above.