

Expansion of Bhubaneswar airport

3350. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with Government for the expansion of Bhubaneswar airport;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken to implement the above proposal; and

(c) what funds have been earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Orissa has sought the extension of the runway at Bhubaneswar airport to 9000 to enable the airport to receive wide-bodied aircraft. The National Airports Authority has already extended the runway to 7441 at a cost of Rs. 8.87 crores. Further expansion will be taken up in a phased manner from 1992-92 onwards.

Visit by foreign trade delegations

@ 3351. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trade delegations etc. from different countries in the past six months visited India to discuss several bilateral issues etc.;

(b) whether some of the visiting teams had put up certain conditions for initiating talks with the Government;

(c) whether the Government of India have formulated some working groups for follow up action; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The delegations from European Economic Community, USA, Australia, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iran, China, Namibia, Mauritius, Romania, Uzbekistan, Russia and Nepal have visited India during the past six months to discuss various issues such as bilateral trade and commercial interests, Uruguay Round of Negotiations etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Area under tea, rubber, coffee and cardamom cultivation

3352. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas under tea, rubber, coffee, cardamom, cultivation, State/Union Territory wise;

(b) what are the details of the production, export and foreign exchange earned from the tea, rubber, coffee, cardamom;

(c) what is the number of persons engaged in tea, rubber, coffee, and cardamom cultivation; and

(d) what is the value of amounts invested by ten top Indian and foreign companies in tea, rubber and cardamom plantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The area under tea, coffee, rubber and cardamom is as follows:-

@ Previously Unstarred Question 2740, transferred from the 16th March, 1992.

Area: In Thousand Hectares.

State/ UTs	Tea (as on 31.12.91)	Coffee (as on 31.3.89)	Rubber (as on 31.3.91)	Cardamon small (as on 31.3.91)
ASSAM	232.65	1.64	9.38	—
WEST BENGAL	103.12	—	—	—
TRIPURA	5.80	0.12	17.12	—
MANIPUR	0.15	0.33	1.22	—
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0.19	0.74	0.05	—
NAGALAND	0.01	3.55	1.39	—
MIZORAM	—	0.78	1.10	—
MEGHALAYA	—	—	3.88	—
BIHAR	0.46	—	—	—
UTTAR PRADESH	0.95	—	—	—
HIMACHAL PRADESH	2.06	—	—	—
MAHARASHTRA	—	—	0.15	—
SIKKIM	0.18	—	—	—
ORISSA	0.21	1.37	0.25	—
ANDHRA PRADESH	—	7.27	0.18	—
GOA	38.73	—	0.97	—
TAMIL NADU	34.77	31.84	17.15	6.17
KERALA	1.99	75.06	384.00	44.01
KARNATAKA	—	120.28	13.50	30.93
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	—	—	0.96	—
OTHERS	—	0.13	—	—
TOTAL	421.27	243.11	451.30	81.11

(b) The production and exports of these commodities during 1990-91 were as follows:—

	Production		Export	
	(M.Kgs.)	Quantity (M.Kgs.)	Value (Rs./ Crores)	
Tea	718.67	199.16	1070.15	
Coffee	173.00	100.11	278.89	
Rubber	329.61	Nil	Nil	
Cardamon (Small)	4.75	0.38	10.22	

(c) The number of persons employed in tea, coffee, rubber and cardamom cultivation are estimated as follows:—

Tea.....	9,79,204 as on 31.12.1989
Coffee.....	3,19,891 as on 31.03.1989
Rubber.....	2,56,000 as on 31.03.1991
Cardamon....	81,000 as on 31.03.1991

(d) Figures of amounts invested by the private companies are not maintained.

India's urge to European Community for the grant of generalised scheme of preferences

3353. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has urged the European Community countries for grant of Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) status to India so that its products could compete in the European Community market on an equal footing;

(b) is so, what is the reaction of the European Community thereto; and

(c) which are the developing countries other than India which have been granted GSP Status by the European Community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) EEC introduced the scheme of Generalised System of Preferences in 1971. India has been a beneficiary of the scheme since its inception. At the Indo-EEC Joint Commission held in November, 1991, the EEC was requested to improve the scheme through additional coverage and simplification. EEC is reviewing its