

the export of non-basmati rice for the period April-August, 2001 has been 2.48 lakh MT (prov.).

Incentives to Coffee Industry

183. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the incentives proposed to boost coffee cultivation and promote good stewardship in the coffee industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): For development of coffee a number of Plan schemes are being operated by the Coffee Board during the 9th Five Year Plan. The Government of India through the Coffee Board, besides operating several Plan schemes and developmental activities aimed at intensive cultivation, replanting programmes, quality improvement programmes and water augmentation programmes, has also been providing necessary support in the form of agricultural research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other necessary backup support like supply of seed for planting purposes etc. Furthermore since the coffee industry is essentially an export-oriented industry, a medium-term strategy has been taken up for implementation comprising a number of initiatives both on the production front as well as the market front.

Impact of US-Afghan war on Indian exports

184. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Indian export-import market has suffered a major setback owing to the uncertainties of the US - Afghanistan War;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any new strategy to help exporters - importers in view of existing war situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the impact on foreign exchange earnings of the present war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) India's export of merchandise goods during the period April- September, 2001-02 was affected by the global economic slow down compounded by the uncertainties arising out of the terrorist attacks in USA and the US-Afghanistan war. India's export growth rate was 1.95% and import growth rate 1.81% during April-September