

Export of Vegetable Oils, Pulses, Rice and Spices

349. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KID-WAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of vegetable oils, pulses, rice and spices exported during the last three years; year-wise along with the names of the countries to which such exports were made;

(b) whether there has been any increase or decrease in export of these items during this period; year-wise;

(c) what steps Government have taken to increase the export of these items; and

(d) what amount of foreign exchange was earned on account of these exports during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a), (b) and (d). Export of vegetable oils is not allowed. Export of pulses is also not allowed except export of processed pulses, made only out of the pulses imported under the advance licensing scheme/pass book or by an approved 100 per cent Export Oriented Unit.

Exports of rice and spices for the last three years were as shown in Annexure [See Appendix C.II Annexure No. 11]

(c) Export promotion measures are given in Statement-I.

Statement-I

The measures taken to promote exports included the following:

I SPICES:

(i) Certain value added items like dehydrated green pepper, frozen green pepper, consumer packs of 1 kg and large cardamom were exempted from Spices Cess which was leviable @ 3.5 per cent *ad valorem*.

(ii) Export of black pepper was exempted from the whole of export duty, which was being levied @ Rs. 5 per kg w.e.f. 20th September, 1988.

(iii) Air freight subsidy at the rate of Rs. 7 per kg was allowed on export

of small cardamom to Middle East Countries during peak period.

(iv) Additional CCS of 5 per cent was allowed on export of cardamom during peak period in 1988-89.

(v) Black listing of Indian pepper which was a non-tariff barrier imposed by US-FDA was lifted by US Government on representation by Government of India.

(vi) The Spices board started implementing a scheme to set up a Quality Control Laboratory for testing of quality of spices to award logo to the exporters. The logo ensures quality acceptance by importers abroad.

(vii) For increasing production of black pepper, the spices Board supplemented efforts for increasing production by supplying about 45 lakhs rooted pepper cuttings annually to the farmers as well as a scheme for developing water resources and many other development schemes besides intensified research to increase production of small and large cardamom.

II CEREALS:

(i) During the current year, instructions were issued abolishing levy on basmati rice with a view to making it more competitive in the international markets.

(ii) Export of non-basmati rice during 1988-89 has been allowed upto a ceiling of one lakh tonne, fixed taking into account domestic needs, as well as the need to retain and develop markets abroad.

Export of Iron Ore

350. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries to which iron ore was exported during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 along with the quantum and value thereof;

(b) what were the corresponding figures of export of iron ore during 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86; and