

भी 15 पैसे करीब लगता है। जब तक बिजली की सप्लाई में अहमियत नहीं दे पाएंगे... (व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

श्री एन. के. पी. साल्बे : खतम कर रहा हूँ, सर। जब तक अहमियत नहीं दे पाएंगे, हमारा यह निर्यात शुरू नहीं हो सकता। मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या इस बात में मंत्री महोदय तबज्जह देंगे कि हमारा जो फ़ैरो-एलायज है, इनका निर्यात ई.ई.सी. मुल्कों को शुरू हो जाय ?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: The proposal is worth considering. We will consider it.

#### Exports by the Spices Board

\*202. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of exports made by the Spices Board during the year 1985-86 and the value thereof; and

(b) what are the total exports earmarked by the Spices Board for the year 1985-86 and the target achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The Spices Board is under constitution.

(b) The target for export of spices including cardamom for 1986-87 is Rs. 240 crores. Export during Aprils October, 1986 are provisionally estimated to be 49,222 MT, valued at Rs. 154.38 crores.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Spices Board is to be formed in lieu of the Cardamom Board and the Spices Export Promotion Council which had been existing earlier. The price of cardamom in the international market, sold from India, is between Rs. 90—125. But small countries like Guatemala are selling cardamom between Rs. 60 and Rs. 70.

As far as pepper is concerned, the U.S.A. is taking 50 per cent of the produce from India. The U.S.S.R. is also getting a large quantity of pepper from India. That being the case in regard to these items, the prices which are prevailing in the international market in regard to Indian items are more compared to that of other countries. Therefore, what steps are being taken by the Government to compete in the international market by having a proper price export more and thereby earn more foreign exchange.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Sir, as far as the first question of the hon. Member is concerned in regard to cardamom, it is a fact that the price of Guatemala is less. This is because their domestic consumption is less and their productivity high when compared to our country. There was back-pipeline stock of Guatemala in the Middle-East and in the world market. This created some problem for us in regard to cardamom export, to provide sufficient and substantial price. Added to this was the fact that we did not have uniform rain this year. As a result of this, cardamom came in the market late. Naturally the growers suffered. Recently, the Cardamom Corporation came into being. The prices were forming up to Rs. 132. Now, the thing is a little stable. We are going to do something better in this field.

So far as the other spices are concerned, in the case of pepper, we are competing with Indonesia. In the case of chilli, our competitor is Pakistan and in the case of ginger, our competitors are Burma and China. In this field we have done well last year. If you look at the figures, it gives an impression that there is phenomenal growth in the spices export programme so far as pepper is concerned. Suddenly, in the latter part of last year, the price went up and we took advantage of it. But this year, the market is quite stable and we think we will do a little better than in the past year.



SHRI Y. NARAYANASAMY: The hon. Minister has given the estimated export figure for the year 1986-87. But he has not given the figure in regard to 1985-86. He has also said that the Spices Board is under constitution. The Bill has already been passed by this House. I do not know why there is delay in constituting this Board.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Sir, for the year 1985-86, the figure is 74,500 MT and the price we earned was Rs. 280.52 crores. As far as the Spices Board is concerned, it will be formed very shortly. It is at the final stage.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: In fact, I am going to move a resolution for election of a member on the Board from this House.,

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alia?* V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, cardamom trade is under the monopoly of three persons in the South and that is why the farmers are not able to get remunerative price. Fortunately, last year the Spices Board came forward to procure certain quantum of cardamom so that the farmer get remunerative price. So, the essential measure, which is necessary for the benefit of the farmer, is permanent procurement and support price. Will the Government formulate such a permanent policy to procure certain quantum of cardamom and fix support price?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Sir, I have stated in the beginning that the Cardamom Trading Corporation has already come into the market, they are the main agency for the purchase direct from auction. For providing much more support to the growers, we have already adopted a number of measures. The hon. Member may be aware that in Kerala the Western Ghat project has been taken up where the Kerala Government itself is participating releasing Rs. 25 lakhs. There are other number of measures which I do not want to read out as it will take a lot of time. I can, however, assure the hon. Member that, as I have stated in the other House the

other day, it is better we make our own rapport with the grower and that is why I am visiting Kerala very soon to get in touch with them directly, to understand the problem and to take steps.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Sir, as you know, Kerala is one of the leading States producing these spices, especially cardamom, pepper, clove and all that. For pepper we are getting very good price for the time being but the problem is that the production of this spice is coming down because of various diseases and all that. Will the Commerce Minister take up the matter with the Ministry of Agriculture to find out some measures so that the production of pepper does not come down? At present, production is coming down like anything.

Coming to clove, some Hongkong-based sharks are monitoring and monopolising the international market and, therefore, we are facing a very difficult situation.

So, these are the two cases. The first one is not directly related to the Commerce Ministry. Even then I would request the hon. Minister to take up the matter with the Agriculture Ministry to find out some way and some kind of remedy for this very serious problem of diseases and all that. The other one ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are repeating unnecessarily ...

SHRI K. MOHANAN:,, Not -unnecessarily. I want a clear answer. That is why I am explaining. I am, asking whether the Government will take into consideration these two points.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: The issue is already taken up with the Agriculture Ministry and we are on it. Secondly, the clove imports have been canalised primarily to protect the domestic growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.