

Export of Coffee

2368. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the coffee grown in the country is exported;

(b) whether the coffee growers are facing distress due to falling world prices;

(c) if so, steps being taken to protect the interests of the coffee growers; and

(d) whether there is a proposal for coffee crop "retention" as in some other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) About 80% the Coffee produced in the country is exported. In recent months international coffee prices have fallen due to over production and surplus coffee supply. This has also led to fall in domestic coffee prices which are, however, still above international price levels.

The Govt. of India through Coffee Board closely monitors the market price situation in order to consider ameliorative measures as required to safeguard the interests of the coffee growers. The Government through Coffee board is implementing various plan schemes for increasing productivity of coffee particularly in the small grower sector and improving quality of the product. The Board is also encouraging the large growers to produce, Speciality coffees which fetch attractive premiums in developed countries like USA and European Union.

(d) and (e) The Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) has recently proposed a retention programme to bring about a balance between supply and demand of coffee by retaining 20 per cent of the total quantity of coffee to be exported from each country, in order to stabilise coffee prices