

(g) what is the number of coal and other mines which have been inspected by the staff of the Directorate General of Mines Safety during the period from January 1978 to June 1980, region-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH):** (a) to (f). A statement (Statement I) in respect of Group 'A' posts in the Directorate General of Mines Safety is placed on the Table on the House. [See Appendix CXIV, Annexure No. 104].

(g) Number of coal and other mines inspected by the Officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety during the period January 1978 to March 1980 is as under:—

| Year                   | Coal | Non-Coal | Total |
|------------------------|------|----------|-------|
| 1978 .                 | 542  | 1842     | 2384  |
| 1979 .                 | 490  | 1921     | 2411  |
| 1980 (upto March 1980) | 342  | 437      | 779   |

Another statement (Statement II) containing the information, region-wise is also placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CXIV, Annexure No. 105].

**Promotion of export of several varieties of cardamom grown in Sikkim**

**\*332. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING:**

**SHRI LALSAWIA:**

**SHRI T. ALIBA IMITI:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several varieties of cardamom grown in Sikkim are not getting any good export market;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to promote the export of these varieties of cardamom?

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**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b). Export of large cardamom mainly grown in Sikkim is steadily increasing as will be seen from the following figures:—

| Year          | Exports        |                      |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
|               | Qty. in tonnes | Value in (Rs. lakhs) |
| 1974-75 . . . | 70             | 9.5                  |
| 1975-76 . . . | 92             | 12.3                 |
| 1976-77 . . . | 104            | 12.1                 |
| 1977-78 . . . | 218            | 42.7                 |
| 1978-79 . . . | 392            | 64.0                 |

(c) Cardamom (large) has been brought under the purview of the Cardamom Act, 1965 from 14-7-1979, thereby making Cardamom Board responsible for development and export of this variety of cardamom. In this connection, following measures have been taken:—

(i) A regional office, four sub-offices and two market-intelligence offices of Cardamom Board have been set up during 1979-80 in Sikkim and West Bengal.

(ii) A market survey for large cardamom in Singapore, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Hongkong, Malaysia and Bangladesh under the assistance from International Trade Centre/Swedish International Development Agency for investigating the possibilities for expansion of export trade in these countries and also to locate new and potential markets, has been approved by Government.

(iii) Export of this item is allowed during 1980-81 under Open General Licence—3 to all permissible destinations and private parties can export without any restriction.