

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री एम० शफी कुरेशी) : (क) इलायची का उत्पादन मुख्यतः केरल, मैसूर तथा मद्रास में होता है। 1964-65 तथा 1965-66 में कुल उपज का क्रमशः 80 प्रतिशत तथा 70 प्रतिशत निर्यात किया गया।

(ख) इलायची का विकास करने के उद्देश्य से इस वर्ष से एक इलायची बोर्ड स्थापित कर दिया गया है।

[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Cardamom is mainly produced in Kerala, Mysore and Madras. Exports during 1964-65 and 1965-66 were 80 per cent, and 70 per cent, respectively of the total produce

(b) A Cardamom Board has been established from this year for the purpose of development of cardamom.]

श्री महावीर दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलाएंगे कि विदेशों को 1964-65 और 1965-66 में जो इलायची निर्यात की उससे कितनी आमदनी हुई ?

श्री एम० शफी कुरेशी : साल 1963-64 में 3 करोड़ 19 लाख रु० और 1964-65 में 2 करोड़ 83 लाख रु०।

श्री महावीर दास : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलाएंगे कि इन स्टेटों को छोड़कर अन्य स्टेट्स में भी इस स्कीम को बढ़ाया जा सकता है ?

श्री एम० शफी कुरेशी : फिलहाल तो केरल, मैसूर और मद्रास के जो सूबे हैं उन पर ही ज्यादा तवज्जह दी जायेगी और जहां-जहां भी कार्डमम की पैदावार हम देखेंगे हो सकती है वहां तवज्जह दी जायेगी।

श्री पी० सी० मित्रा : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि हिन्दुस्तान में अभी होवसेल प्राइस आफ कार्डमम क्या है ?

श्री एम० शफी कुरेशी : कार्डमम के प्राइसेज मुश्तलफ़ वक्त पर बढ़ते रहे हैं। 1964-65 में 16 रु० पर किलोग्राम तक थी और इस वक्त 50 से 60 रु० पर किलोग्राम है।

श्री पी० सी० मित्रा : यहां दिल्ली में तोले के हिसाब से इलायची बिक्री होती है, 80 पैसे तोले के हिसाब से बिक्री होती है।

श्री एम० शफी कुरेशी : यह एक इत्तिला है जिस पर गौर किया जायेगा।

*395. [The questioner (Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2262-63 infra.]

MACHINERY TO STUDY RISE IN INDUSTRIES' COST OF PRODUCTION

*396. SHRI M. C. SHAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether Government have set up any machinery to make a detailed study of each industry to find out the likely increase in the cost of production as a result of devaluation and the likely price increase that will be justified on that account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA) : No, Sir. The impact of devaluation will vary from unit to unit. As such industry-wise study will not serve any useful purpose.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : Sir, as a result of devaluation the export industries were expected to get a great impetus. May I know, Sir, how far this expectation has been realised ? Whether any impetus has been given to the export industries as a result of devaluation, I would like to know.

SHRI D. SANIVAYYA : It is too early to assess the effects of devaluation on our exports. But the Government have already selected 59 priority industries and cent, per cent, requirements with regard to raw material, components and spares will be made available. We have every hope that these industries would go into full production and export to the maximum possible extent.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : As imports are so costlier as a result of devaluation, may I know, Sir, what is the impact upon import substitutes in our country ?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : Yes, Sir. Today I feel that two categories of industries should be given all importance and help—(i) industries which improve our exports and (ii) industries which devote their attention to the matter of imports substitution.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : We have been promised that as a result of devaluation the internal prices will not go up. But in spite of that prices have steadily risen after devaluation and the promises of the Government to control the prices have not fructified. May I know, Sir, what other steps Government propose to take to see that the prices remain at a steady level ?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : I think this question should be addressed to my colleague, the Minister in charge of Commerce. However, I might add that immediately after devaluation I was asked to go to Calcutta and Shri S. K. Patil to go to Bombay. We met various producers of consumer goods. We requested them not to increase prices. Most of them have not done it. Some might have increased. They have also issued appeals to their dealers, agents, etc. not to increase prices.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : May I know, Sir, if the Government is aware that during the last 3 to 4 years the prices of oil engines up to 5 H.P. which were costing Rs. 1,300 have gone up to Rs. 3,300 and enormous profits are being earned by the industrialists ? May we know from the Government whether this is not a fact ? If it is so, is the Government considering to put some restrictions on the margin of profit of these industrialists ?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : I have already said that this question might be addressed to my colleague, the Commerce Minister.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know, Sir, how the Government has assessed the import requirements of these 59 industries which cover most of the country's indus-

tries, and whether the Government has taken any precautions to see that the industries do not indulge in unnecessary stock-piling ? The Government has been ill-advised to adopt the policy of import liberalisation because the industries do realise that this liberalisation is a short-term affair and the country cannot afford. Somebody has made a mistake and somebody will correct it. So there is a tendency in the industry to indulge in stock-piling.

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : Yes, Sir. Two things we should not do : (i) unnecessary stock-piling of raw materials and (ii) to forget about import substitution. We have to become self-reliant. So far as large-scale industries are concerned the Director General, Technical Development (D.G.T.D.) has a list of all these industries and also their needs and requirements. We know that earlier they were getting 60 or 70 per cent, of their requirements. So it is quite possible for the D.G.T.D. to assess their cent, per cent, needs. With regard to small-scale industries, the Development Commissioner, Small-scale Industries, has figures to show what their requirements are. Keeping that in view new allotments are made.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH : These 59 industries are just *ad hoc* members. Is the Government going to add to these numbers ?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : My colleague the Commerce Minister stated that this is not a final list. We can add some more industries keeping in view the importance of the industry or the end products.

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I ask the Minister whether he is aware of the plight of the printing industry which has been called upon to print text-books, electoral rolls and also bring out the newspapers. Ninety per cent, of the requirements of the printing industry is imported from abroad and in spite of that there is a ruinous Customs and Excise Duty of over 33-1/3 per cent. Has he made any representation to the Ministry of Finance that in order to give relief to the printing industry at least the Customs and Excise Duty should be waived?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : Firstly this pickling industry is not a scheduled industry and no licence is required. Some representations have been made to me with regard to the allotment of foreign exchange for the import of machinery. I do not know whether any representation has been made to the Finance Ministry. Certainly so far as the representations made to me are concerned, we will examine them and I will ask the other colleagues who form or constitute the Cabinet Sub-Committee to look into all the problems arising out of devaluation.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : The Minister said that he had made a request to the manufacturers as well as the industrialists not to raise the prices. Is his programme of restricting profits and rise in prices merely confined to requests to the monopolists or is he considering some more concrete steps either in the form of fresh legislation or otherwise for the purpose of restricting profits and checking the price rise by the manufacturers and industrialists ?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : My answer is, generally with regard to the prices of the various commodities, etc. and how they have been rising or how they have not been rising; the question might be addressed to the Commerce Minister.

SHRI G. M. MIR : May I know whether it is not a fact that the prices of H.M.T. watches have been increased and, if so, the reasons for it ? May I know whether the prices will be brought down. They have been increased by Rs. 12/-.

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA : The prices have been increased because the price of the import content of the H.M.T. watches has risen.

*397. *{The questioner {Shri Abid Ali} was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2263-64 Infra.}*

ACID USED FOR PICKLING OF STEEL

*398. SHRI R. K. BHUWALKA : Will the Minister of IRON AND STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of sulphuric acid used by steel mills for pickling purposes every year from 1963-64 to 1965-66;

(b) whether it is fact that a substitute hydrochloric acid has been found out in place of sulphuric acid used for pickling steel;

(c) whether any direction has been issued by Government to steel mills to use hydrochloric acid, sulphur being an imported item; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRON AND STEEL (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) The quantity of sulphuric acid used by steel mills for pickling from 1963-64 to 1965-66 is as under : —

1963-64	—	8961 tonnes
1964-65	9355 tonnes
1965-66	—	6970 tonnes

(b) to (d) The use of hydrochloric acid in place of sulphuric acid for pickling is a recent innovation in the international steel industry. Hydrochloric acid is more corrosive and gives off noxious fumes to a greater extent. Its use, therefore, presents greater problems of proper handling, maintenance, fume prevention and neutralisation of effluents; many of these involve human safety. Nevertheless, the Government have asked the steel mills to investigate the feasibility of substituting sulphuric acid by hydrochloric acid in the interests of reducing imports of sulphur.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH EXECUTIVES OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

*399. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister recently invited top executives of public sector undertakings for re-appraisal of the working of the public sector; and

(b) if so, what were the conclusions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.