

Indian trade service

2035. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indian Trade Service candidates in the country;
- (b) the number of candidates selected annually for the Indian Trade Service;
- (c) the criteria for the provision of promotion in the service; and
- (d) the mechanism and provisions to regulate the functions of Indian Trade Service officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The total number of Indian Trade Service officers in the country is 130.

(b) The number of candidates allotted annually from the Indian Trade Service varies from year to year depending upon number of vacancies available. Number of candidates allotted to Indian Trade Service since 2005 is as follows:

(i)	2005	-	02
(ii)	2006	-	03
(iii)	2007	-	17
(iv)	2008	-	05
(v)	2009	-	00 (No vacancy was reported)
(vi)	2010	-	16
(vii)	2011	-	06

(c) and (d) These are as per provisions of the Indian Trade Service (Group 'A') Rules, 1977 as amended from time to time and relevant regulations/directions issued by Department of Personnel and Training from time to time.

Package to coffee growers of Karnataka

2036. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that coffee growers are

engulfed in debt trap because of sudden decrease in the production of coffee during the last ten years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the coffee growers of Karnataka (Growers Association) has requested for a package of Rs. 1236 crores; and

(c) if so, what is the response of the Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Un-remunerative Coffee prices, severe drought conditions, heavy rainfall and white stem borer infestation affected the Coffee sector during the early part of last decade which led to decrease in production, productivity and inability of Coffee growers to service their debts and make proper investments in their farms in the first half of the decade. However, due to favourable weather conditions and remunerative prices in the recent years and implementation of various development schemes by the Coffee Board, the Coffee production has increased from 2.71 lakh MT in 2003-04 to 3.14 lakh MT in 2011-12.

With a view to providing relief to Coffee growers during the distress period, relief measures have been extended by the Govt. of India from time to time, *viz.*, Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTL) in April, 2002 and the Special Relief Package in June, 2005. Further, in order to help the coffee growers to deal with the accumulated debt burden of coffee crisis period of 2000-01 to 2005-06, the Coffee Debt Relief Package-2010 was sanctioned for the debt ridden small coffee growers and Rs. 241.00 crore was released to the Coffee Board for settling the claims. The waiver benefit was restricted to the small coffee growers (upto 10 hec.) and the medium and large growers were extended the benefit of rescheduling their loan. The entire amount had been utilized for the purpose.

As additional claims from the banks were still pending, on the request made by the Coffee Board, additional fund of Rs. 58.00 Crores was released to the Coffee Board under CDRP-2010 for settling the pending/supplementary claims. About Rs. 52.20 crores of this amount has also been utilized. So far, 1,35,260 coffee growers have already benefited and the scheme has helped the growers to reduce their loan liability and reschedule their balance outstanding loans.

Representations were made by some Members of Parliament, the Karnataka Growers' Federation etc. requesting for waiver of interest on the loans taken by the

medium and large coffee growers. The matter was examined in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. However, the request was not found feasible on the ground that such a waiver would have financial implications for banks and result in similar kind of demands from other sectors.

Slowdown in industrial production

2037. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is slowdown in industrial production, particularly in manufacturing sector in country;

(b) if so, details thereof and the reasons therefor along with sector-wise industrial production figure during the last three years and current year;

(c) whether Government has assessed data of joblessness due to slowdown in manufacturing sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard;

(e) whether Index for Industrial Production (IIP) has declined significantly due to inflation/devaluation of rupee and recent global slowdown; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government for industrial development and recouping of growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) and (b) Measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), there has been both moderation and decline in the industrial growth including manufacturing growth in recent years. During 2009-10 growth rate of manufacturing was 4.8 percent; it increased to 9.0 percent in 2010-11 but declined to 3.0 percent in 2011-12. During first half of the current year *i.e.* April-September 2012, manufacturing growth was -0.4 percent compared to 5.5 percent growth in the corresponding period of previous year.

The reasons for decline in the growth of manufacturing include global slowdown, moderation in domestic demand, hardening of interest rates etc.

Regarding sector-wise industrial production figure it may be mentioned that the production data used for compilation of IIP is collected from a pre-determined