

- (a) whether it is a fact that the European Union has demanded duty free car imports into India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to accept their demand by allowing them the imports at 5 per cent tariff; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Government of India is negotiating a bilateral Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with the European Union (EU) in which so far fifteen rounds of negotiations have been held. Final positions are to emerge as the negotiations across various sectors including cars are ongoing. As is consistent with previous and established practice in ongoing negotiations, disclosures before finalisation of the Agreement may adversely affect India's position in the negotiations.

Adverse effect of cheap import of cardamom from Guatemala

4510. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the indiscriminate import of cheap and inferior quality cardamom from Guatemala has caused heavy fall in the price of domestic cardamom, adversely affecting the livelihood of small and marginal farmers of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the quantum of cardamom imported during 2012-13 from Guatemala through various channels; and
- (c) whether Government will consider enhancing the import duty of cardamom to 100 per cent and fixing a higher floor price for imported cardamom as imposed by Government in the case of arecanut imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The statement that indiscriminate import of cheap and inferior quality cardamom from Guatemala has caused heavy fall in the price of domestic cardamom is not based on facts. The total import of cardamom into India during the current season is around 200

tonnes which is negligible compared to the total production of cardamom in 2012-13 which stood at around 12420 tonnes. Moreover, as compared to the previous year, the average auction price of cardamom in 2012-13 is Rs.751.28/kg which is Rs.105.66/kg higher than that in 2011-12. Since the quantity of cardamom imported to India is negligible and it has not had any impact on the domestic price of cardamom, there is no need to enhance import duty of cardamom.

Employment growth rate and employment generation

†4511. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual employment growth rate in the country during the period from 1999 to 2004 and 2004 to 2013;

(b) the details of total employment generation in the country during the period from 1999 to 2004 and 2004 to 2013;

(c) the position of the States on the front of annual employment growth rate during the last five years; and

(d) the position of the States on the front of total employment generation during the last five year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Last such survey was conducted during 2009-2010. As per results of the three most recent surveys, estimated employment in the country on usual status basis Increased by 62.1 million from 397 million in 1999-2000 to 459.10 million in 2004-05 and by 6.38 million from 459.10 in 2004-05 to 465.48 million in 2009-2010, registering an average annual growth rate of 2.95 per cent during 1999-2000 to 2004-05 and 0.28 per cent during 2004-05 to 2009-10.

(c) and (d) The State-wise details of employment rates during 2004-05 and 2009-10 on usual status basis in rural and urban areas are given in Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.