

Revision of Tea Act, 1953

1452. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Tea Act, 1953 now in force, formulated in conformity with the International Tea Agreement, is much overdue for revision;
- (b) whether Government proposes to amend the Tea Act, 1953 to vest more powers and authority with the Tea Board to regulate the industry and the trade including provision of welfare measures for the tea garden workers; and
- (c) whether the proposed amendment aims at recognizing the role of small growers holding less than 25 acres and ensuring a just price for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The Tea Act was enacted in 1953 with the objective of controlling the tea industry pursuant to relevant International agreements and developing the industry as well as production and marketing of tea. As the tea sector has undergone several changes since inception of the Tea Act, 1953, the Law Commission, in its 159th Report has, *inter alia*, recommended amendment of the Tea Act, 1953.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken up an exercise for consulting stakeholders and obtaining their interests and views on the amendments to the Tea Act, 1953. The interest of small growers and just price for their produce is taken into account in course of these consultations.

Export of Spices

1453. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the item-wise details of the total spices exported during the last three years;
- (b) whether any specific steps have been taken to promote Spices Board across the globe in the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The export details of spices for the last three years is given below:

| Year | Quantity in MT | Value in ₹ crore |
|---------|----------------|------------------|
| 2011-12 | 575,270 | 9783.42 |
| 2012-13 | 726,613 | 12112.76 |
| 2013-14 | 817,250 | 13735.39 |

The major item-wise export details of spices for the last three years are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The Government has implemented various programmes for development of exports of spices *viz.* development of Infrastructure for common processing facilities including Spices Parks, trade promotion activities including participation in international fairs, promotion of Indian spice brands, product development and research for exporters, study of markets abroad, certification of Spice Houses, setting up quality evaluation laboratories for promoting Indian Spices and Spice Products. Following these efforts, the Spices Board has received international recognition as chair of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) set up by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Secretariat of the CCSCH functions in the Spices Board.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Item-wise details of total spices export for the last three years

(Qty. in Tonnes and value in ₹ Lakhs)

| Item | 2011-12 | | 2012-13 | | 2013-14 | |
|--------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
| | Qty. | Value | Qty. | Value | Qty. | Value |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Pepper | 26,700 | 87,813.45 | 15,363 | 63,810.29 | 21,250 | 94,002.34 |
| Cardamom (S) | 4,650 | 36,322.28 | 2,372 | 21,215.04 | 3,600 | 28,380.88 |
| Cardamom (L) | 935 | 6,830.00 | 1,217 | 6,254.59 | 1,110 | 7,961.15 |
| Chilli | 241,000 | 214,408.00 | 301,000 | 238,060.90 | 312,500 | 272,227.20 |
| Ginger | 21,550 | 20,420.02 | 22,207 | 18,725.14 | 23,300 | 25,614.27 |
| Turmeric | 79,500 | 73,434.40 | 88,513 | 55,487.70 | 77,500 | 66,675.85 |
| Coriander | 28,100 | 16,401.85 | 35,902 | 20,182.59 | 45,750 | 37,185.65 |
| Cumin | 45,500 | 64,442.05 | 85,602 | 115,306.61 | 121,500 | 160,006.45 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|----------------------------|---------|------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| Celery | 3,650 | 2,340.05 | 5,171 | 2,977.26 | 5,600 | 3,661.48 |
| Fennel | 8,100 | 7,209.20 | 13,811 | 10,466.12 | 17,300 | 16,001.42 |
| Fenugreek | 21,800 | 7,275.20 | 29,622 | 10,488.12 | 35,575 | 13,378.37 |
| Other Seeds (1) | 13,050 | 5,881.25 | 18,442 | 11,178.60 | 27,800 | 15,425.65 |
| Garlic | 2,200 | 1,415.70 | 22,872 | 6,868.14 | 25,650 | 8,387.05 |
| Nutmeg & Mace | 3,620 | 24,097.51 | 3,231 | 22,591.87 | 4,450 | 26,285.62 |
| Other Spices (2) | 35,900 | 32,033.00 | 34,298 | 30,209.03 | 34,700 | 41,846.80 |
| Curry Powder/Paste | 17,000 | 25,208.25 | 17,436 | 27,515.66 | 23,750 | 40,132.03 |
| Mint Products (3) | 14,750 | 222,372.00 | 20,039 | 394,049.95 | 24,500 | 343,042.20 |
| Spice Oils & Oleoresins | 7,265 | 130,438.28 | 9,515 | 155,888.19 | 11,415 | 173,324.85 |
| TOTAL | 575,270 | 978,342.48 | 726,613 | 1,211,275.80 | 817,250 | 1,373,539.26 |
| VALUE IN MILLION US \$ | | 2,037.76 | | 2,212.13 | | 2,267.67 |

(1) Include Bishops Weed (Ajwanseed), Dill Seed, Poppy Seed, Aniseed, Mustard etc.

(2) Include Asafoetida, Cinnamon, Cassia, Cambodge, Saffron, Spices (NES) etc.

(3) Include Menthol, Menthol Crystals and Mint Oils.

Source : DGCI & S., Calcutta/Shipping Bills/Exporters' Returns.

Impact of PM's Global Visits on Investment Climate

1454. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of Prime Minister's global visits on India's prestige, power and investment climate; and