

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (e) A new Foreign Trade Policy is under consideration of Government and would be announced in August, 2004. No Advisory Group has been constituted by the Government as yet. The new Policy would focus on thrust areas which include agriculture. The New Foreign Trade Policy is expected to boost exports, including agricultural exports and create additional employment.

Coffee and tea production

6. PROF. M.M.AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coffee/tea production and consumption during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have formulated any policy to increase the coffee/tea production;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the measures being taken by Government to give some relief to the coffee/tea growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The total quantity of coffee and tea production and consumption during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Coffee Production (in tonnes)	Coffee consumption (in tonnes)	Tea production (in million kg.)	Tea consumption (in million kg.)#
2001-02	300,600	64000 68,000	847.46	678
2002-03	275,275	70,000#	837.60	698
2003-04	270,500		850.49	719

#Estimated/provisional

[5 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) and (c) The Commodity Boards for tea and coffee are implementing various schemes for increasing the productivity and providing support to growers of tea and coffee respectively.

The Coffee Board is already implementing a number of plan schemes for development of coffee under which various types of financial/technical assistance are provided to coffee growers both in traditional and non-traditional coffee growing areas. Further, in order to improve farm productivity, quality, processing and marketability of Indian coffee and also to reduce the credit burden of the coffee growers, the Coffee Board is operating several specific programmes providing for direct financial support/subsidy to the coffee growers during the Tenth Plan. This includes providing assistance for activities like re-planting, water augmentation, extending support in the form of agricultural research through Board's extension network.

With regard to tea, during the Tenth Plan, Tea Board is implementing various Plan schemes with main thrust on improving production, productivity, value addition and marketability of tea. In view of the emerging global trends and indications of world wide production, the Board is concentrating on increasing productivity of the existing gardens rather than establishing new plantations which now require huge investment. Therefore focus is on increasing profitability of tea gardens through re-planting, rejuvenation and mechanization of operations. To capture the growing niche market and improving marketing capabilities, production of specialty teas, orthodox teas and value addition is being encouraged.

(d) In order to mitigate the problems of coffee growers arising from the present low prices of coffee, Government of India has taken a series of steps which includes re-phasing/restructuring of loans taken by the coffee growers from commercial banks by way of Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTL), interest subsidy to small and large coffee growers on the repayment of working capital loans taken from financial institutions, and reduction in import duty on specified machinery for coffee sector to 5% to enable the industry to improve the quality and productivity of coffee for making it globally competitive. Commercial Banks have also agreed to extend crop loans upto a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs at 9% interest so as to benefit the coffee growers having land holdings upto 60 ha. In addition, the Coffee Board is implementing a medium-term export strategy to sustain

and gain market share in the key markets and also to improve the competitiveness of Indian Coffee in global markets over the next few years.

So far as tea is concerned, a package of Special Tea Term Loan (STTL) has been announced recently which envisages restructuring/repaying of outstanding term/working capital loans in the tea sector with repayment over 5 to 7 years and a moratorium of 1 year. The STTL also provides for working capital upto Rs. 2 lakhs at a rate not exceeding 9% to small growers. The Government has issued orders regarding implementation of a Price Subsidy Scheme for small tea growers for a period of four months from February to May 2004. Tea Board is also implementing a price sharing formula between small tea growers and manufacturers of made tea w.e.f. 1.4.2004. A special fund has also been set up out of collections by way of additional duty of excise of Re. 1 per kg. on tea for the development, modernization and rehabilitation of tea plantation sector.

The Govt. of India has also set up a Price Stabilization Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore for the benefit of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco growers.

Wheat export

7. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the surplus wheat available for export during the year 2004-05;

(b) the details of the surplus wheat exported to various countries during the last three years; and

(c) the value of the foreign exchange earned in Indian currency during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) There are no estimates of the surplus wheat available for exports during the year 2004-05. However, during April-May 04, 8.56 lakh tonnes of wheat has been released from Central Pool stocks for humanitarian assistance/exports.

(b) and (c) The total quantity and value of wheat exported during the last three years is as under:—