

[5 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) The matter has been taken up with the Saudi Arabian Authorities.

Shifting MPEDA to Vishakhapatnam

4. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to shift the MPEDA from Cochin to Vishakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the marine product exports originate from the East Coast; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to shift MPEDA to the East Coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The East Coast contributed about 25.09% in volume and 51.04% in value of our total export of marine products during 2002-03.

(d) The office is well established and there are a large number of processing units closer to Cochin. Moreover, any shifting will entail large expenditure, which is avoidable.

New Trade Policy

5. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revamped the trade policy;

(b) if so, whether a twenty five Member Advisory Group had been constituted to advise on the export and import related issues;

(c) whether the new policy would focus on agriculture and employment generation;

(d) whether Government are also considering for promotion of FDI that promotes agriculture exports and creates additional jobs; and

(e) if so, by when the New Trade Policy is likely to be announced?

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