

(d) whether any interest free loans were given by the Coffee Board in 2003-04; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) In order to provide relief to coffee growers, who are facing problems arising from the present low prices of coffee, the Coffee Board continued implementation of an interest relief scheme during the year 2003-04, under which 5% interest subsidy was provided to small coffee growers on their working capital loans taken by them from financial institutions. Under this scheme, interest subsidy amounting to Rs. 6.90 crores was provided to the small coffee growers during the year 2003-04.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Marine exports

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

(a) the marine products exports during 2003-04 and foreign exchange earnings;

(b) whether it is a fact that many countries have banned Indian marine products on the grounds of not maintaining high standards of hygiene;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to mitigate such problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) As per provisional export figures provided by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the exports of our marine products during 2003-04 amounted to US\$1211.86 million.

(b) and (c) Only Saudi Arabia has banned import of fresh marine products from India on the ground of cholera, being present in India.

[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?