

(e) Before entering into negotiations with its trading partners, studies are undertaken internally, as well as through the Joint Study Group (JSG) to study the feasibility of the proposed FTAs including its benefits for and impact on the domestic industry.

Assistance to Tamil Nadu for purchase of turmeric boilers

18. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state what is the financial assistance given to Tamil Nadu in the year 2016-2017, with regard to purchase of turmeric boilers and turmeric polishers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Government through the Spices Board provides assistance to the turmeric growers for installing turmeric polishers under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture [MIDH]. As per the scheme, 35% of the actual cost of the turmeric polisher subject to a maximum of ₹ 87,500/-is provided as subsidy to SC, ST, small, marginal and women farmers and ₹ 62,500/-as subsidy to other farmers in the major turmeric growing States including Tamil Nadu. During 2016-17, out of ₹ 10.80 lakhs allotted for turmeric polisher under MIDH to Spices Board, an amount of ₹ 2.62 lakhs has been allotted to Tamil Nadu.

Government through Spices Board also implements the Scheme “Export Oriented Production, Export Development and Promotion of Spices”, under which *inter-alia* assistance is provided to the turmeric growers for installing turmeric boilers at the rate of 50% of the actual cost of the turmeric boilers, subject to a maximum of ₹ 1.50 lakhs. During 2016-17, no financial assistance has been provided to the farmers in the turmeric growing areas of Tamil Nadu as of now.

Assistance to Tamil Nadu for purchase of beekeeping boxes

19. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state what is the financial assistance given to Tamil Nadu in the year 2016-17, with regard to purchase of beekeeping boxes to promote the pollination of cardamom flowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Government through Spices Board implements the Scheme “Export Oriented Production, Export Development and Promotion of Spices”, under which *inter-alia*, various programmes are taken up for boosting production of small and large cardamom in the country which include assistance to cardamom growers for installing beekeeping boxes for promoting pollination of cardamom flowers. 50% of the actual cost of the bee boxes with bee hives subject to a maximum of ₹ 1880/-per bee box are provided as subsidy to