

have informed the Government applies for extension and, if there are genuine reasons for extending, we give extension. But again I want to tell you that there is no restriction anywhere in the country, subject to the clearance of Defence in certain parts, that we will not allow ferry service.

Export of Cashewnut, Pepper and Marine Products

*171. **SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been fall in the export of cashewnut, pepper and marine products from Kerala during 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of cashewnut, pepper and marine products from Kerala during 1990-91?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Separate state-wise export figures are not maintained. While exports of cashewnuts and marine products recorded an increase during 1990-91, there was a fall in the export of pepper mainly due to the high price of Indian pepper as compared to pepper of rival origins, lower production and the Gulf Crisis.

(c) According to the provisional data available, the export of cashewnuts, pepper and marine products were as follows during 1990-91:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Value in Rs. crores</i>
Cashewnuts	443.50
Pepper	111.00
Marine Products	893.37

(Source: Cashew Export Promotion Council, Spices Board and MPEDA)

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: I want to know whether there was an increase value-wise in respect of cashew and marine products in 1991 and, if so, the details.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: There was an increase in marine exports from Rs. 635 crores to Rs. 893 crores in 1990-91. On cashew, the export increase was from Rs. 360 crores in 1989-90 to Rs. 443 crores in 1990-91.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: What steps are being taken to make Indian pepper competitive in the international market?

MR. SPEAKER: If statistics are not available, you can send them.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : Steps are being taken including interaction with international agencies. The problem that arises is pepper is an exclusive crop. There is also the problem of drop in prices in the world market. We are aware of all these and steps are being taken with international agencies, to ensure that prices would not drop. The main reason is drop in world prices because of the demand and supply position.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: The hon. Minister has given the figure in terms of rupees. I would like to know whether there has been a rise or fall in the export of these items in terms of quantity and in terms of unit earning. If there has been a fall in some countries and a rise in some other countries, in that case please give the names of the countries to which our exports have fallen in this context.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : Sir, there is an increase both in terms of quantity as well as amount regarding export. If the hon. Member wants the details, we will give the same in writing.

SHRI E. AHAMED : The hon. Minister has replied that earning in respect of Cashew is much less than

the marine products. One of the reasons which I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister is that there is not sufficient promotion of cashew products to the Western countries where we have good marketing and the schemes that have been contemplated for the cashew cultivation with the help of the World Market have not been taken up by the Government of India so far. Therefore, we have to depend on other countries for the import of raw-nuts. I would like to know whether the Government has any scheme to promote the cashew production by indigenous method with the help of the World Bank for which a scheme has already been there before the Government of India which has been approved and sent by the Kerala Government.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : Since Cashew is a horticulture crop, the main responsibility for its regulation, production remains not with the Central Government but with the Government of Kerala; not with our Ministry but with the Ministry of Agriculture. A five-year World Bank assisted programme of area development from 1982-83 to 1986-87 has rejuvenated trees and also helped to increase acreage under Cashew in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The results in harvest have just begun to show. We need greater interaction between the Central Government and the State of Kerala. We have already initiated plans and steps in this regard.

Assistance from Foreign Agencies for Improvement of Exports

*172. **SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any monitoring and coordinating agency to improve the export position of our country;

(b) whether any assistance has been sought from some foreign agencies to help in increasing our exports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the garment exporters regarding their problems; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Ministry of Commerce functions as the central monitoring and coordinating agency to improve the export position of our country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Assistance is sought from time to time from various international agencies such as Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), London, European Economic Community (EEC), Brussels, etc, as also from our major trading partners for increasing our exports.

(d) and (e) Government have been receiving a number of representations from the garment exporters from time to time on various problems being faced by them and appropriate actions have been taken on such representations where found necessary.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, the answer given by the Minister is very evasive. Really speaking, I had asked what are the main points in the representation of the garment exporters and the problems they are facing and what concrete actions the Government has taken to increase the garment exports particularly in view of the latest decision of the Government by which you are withdrawing the export subsidy. Garment being one of the major items of our export in which India has a name, what concrete actions the Government is taking to increase the garment exports and also to increase the quota fixed by the EEC.