

[English]

Assistance for Industrial Development in Orissa

1938. SHRI MURLIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance sanctioned for industrial development in Orissa during last three years; and

(b) the criteria laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The primary responsibility for industrial development rests with the State Governments. The Ministry of Industry has sponsored the Growth Centre Scheme for granting Central assistance to support industrial development in the States. Three growth centres were allocated to the State of Orissa for implementation by the State Government. No central releases could be made to these three centres in the last three years as appraisal of the projects, are yet to be completed. Special reports from the State Government are awaited.

Export of Pepper

1939. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any decline in export of pepper during 1995-96 in comparison to the corresponding year.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from All India Spice Exporters Forum for extending cess-exemption for pepper;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes Sir. The details of export of pepper during the last two years are given below

Year	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	36.536	234.61
1995-96(P)	25.401	193.50

(P) Provisional

Source : DGCIS, Calcutta

(b) The main reason for decline in pepper exports during 1995-96 was depressed demand in USA, the major importing country.

(c) and (d) Cess on export of certain spices, including pepper (except green pepper in brine) was exempted upto 31.03.1996. A suggestion to extend cess exemption was received from All India Spice exporters Forum

(e) Review of taxation burden on exports, including cess is an on-going process, and, as and when considered necessary, exemptions on specified items are notified.

Non-Payment of Salaries to T.T.C.I. Workers

1940. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tea garden workers in Darjeeling under the Tea Trading Corporation of India are not getting their salaries and other facilities for several months;

(b) if so, the total amount of such dues to be paid with the details of tea gardens, number of workers from each garden and the period of dues; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide salaries and other facilities to those workers under T.T.C.I. in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Position regarding outstanding salary/wages of workers as on 1st April, 1996 in respect of tea gardens in District Darjeeling owned by Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. is indicated in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT

Details regarding outstanding wages and salaries of workers of tea gardens owned by Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd in Darjeeling District of West Bengal

Tea Garden	Outstanding Wages & salaries to be paid as on 1.4.96 (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of workers in the garden	Period of dues	Ration outstanding as on 1.4.96 (Rs. in lakhs)
Vah-Tukvar Tea Estate	69.36	748	Over 90 weeks	26.95
Pashok Tea Estate	65.08	959	Over 70 weeks	28.98
Potong Tea Estate	10.00	344	Over 12 weeks	7.61

(c) In view of persistent losses suffered in all gardens including the gardens in Darjeeling District owned by TTCI Ltd., it has been decided to dispose of these gardens through outright sale. Outstanding liabilities on account of salaries/wages of the workers are proposed to be met by TTCI Ltd. from out of the sale proceeds. Though attempts are being made to complete the sale expeditiously, there has been difficulty in completing the sale process on account of court cases. All possible steps have been taken to expedite the sale. In the meanwhile, the company has been asked to continue production and manufacturing activities to the extent feasible to ensure payment of current dues.

Export of Orchid Flowers

1941. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a good number of orchid flowers cultivated in Sikkim and Darjeeling and exported abroad;

(b) if so, the quantum of orchid flowers exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the further steps taken by the Government to boost the export of orchid flowers from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign exchange earned from export of out flowers including orchid flowers during the period 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April, 95 to Jan. 96) is as follows :

	Value : Rs. in crores		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
		(April, 95 to Jan. 96)	
Cut Flowers and Flower buds*	11.92	22.57	35.23

The item "Orchid Flowers" is not separately specified for statistical purposes in the international Trade Classification (Harmonised System) Code and as such it is not possible to furnish the information on export of this item

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of export of cut flowers and flower buds are available in the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India Published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament House Library.

*No unit of quantity is assigned to export of cut flowers.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of floriculture products including orchid flowers from India, inter-alia, include :-

- (i) Providing financial assistance for development of infrastructure such as refrigerated/insulated vans and setting up of pre-cooling/cold storage units;
- (ii) establishing five walk-in-type cold storages at airports for export consignments awaiting clearance;
- (iii) Streamlining and simplification of plant quarantine procedures for expeditious clearance of cargo;
- (iv) Concessional customs duty on specified goods required for Green Houses;
- (v) Making available the benefits of duty free imports under the export Oriented Units/Export Processing Zones Schemes to units engaged in floriculture and permitting sale of 50% of their production in the Domestic Tariff Area;
- (vi) Implementation of a UNDP assisted Project on Floriculture for enhancing production and exports of cut flowers. Some of the activities to be undertaken in this project include advising entrepreneurs on production of flowers, preparation of crop manuals, undertaking market surveys and providing market information; and
- (vii) Participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

Revision of Wages in Insurance Sector

1942. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI MULIAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have revised the wages of the Insurance officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date from which the revised wages have been made effective to the staff of Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation;

(c) the details of the revision made in their wage packages, category-wise;

(d) the status of the pension scheme introduced for the officials of the Insurance sector; and

(e) the details of the pending demands of the employees and the reaction of the Government on each of them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) :

(a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The category-wise details of the major elements of the wage revision are given in the attached statement;