

base of ex-Servicemen. The eligible persons are being issued Identity Cards.

Coffee Plantation in A.P.

3612. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great scope for expansion of coffee plantation in the Agency areas of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam Districts of ?Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken to encourage plantation of coffee in a big way in these areas by the local tribal population; as well the forward coming entrepreneurs;

(c) whether these measures have yielded substantial results;

(d) is as, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to further encourage coffee plantation in these areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) and (b). There is scope for expansion of coffee in the hilly terrains of the Agency areas of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam Districts of Andhra

Pradesh. The Coffee Board has been encouraging the cultivation of coffee in these two Districts since 1976. Under its Plan programmes, the Coffee Board has encouraged the State Governments to take up coffee expansion under its Agency set up like Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation/ Forest Department/Girijan Co-operative Coffee Development Corporation. The Board is on its part has provided the necessary technical expertise in Project formulation, Technical appraisal of the expansion projects, and supported the programmes by supply of high yielding variety seed coffee, opening of extension Centres at Minumuluru, Chintapalli and Araku, opening of a Regional coffee Research Station for tackling the problems of Research pertaining to Andhra Zone as well as by setting up Coffee collection Centre at Paderu and Narsipatnam. For demonstrating the modern methods of coffee cultivation, the Board has also established a coffee Demonstration farm at Minukuluru. For providing the necessary training in the methods of coffee cultivation, the required training facilities have been created at the Board's Regional Coffee Research Station at R. V. Nagar, Chintapalli.

(c) and (d). The measures taken by the coffee Board have yielded substantial results as is evident from the following table:-

Year	Area	Crop produced
1989-90	8873 ha.	765 tonnes.
1990-91	9123 ha.	705 tonnes.
1991-92	9761 ha.	1080 tonnes.

(e) The present policy is not to encourage further expansion of coffee plantation. The thrust is now on consolida-

tion of the existing areas of coffee plantation.