

**Complaints against functioning of
Coffee Board**

4889. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA
: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have received complaints from coffee growers against the functioning of Coffee Board ;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon ;

(c) Whether the Government propose to make the Coffee Board as an autonomous body ; and

(d) : If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.
CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Complaints
have been received from coffee growers
against the functioning of Coffee Board,
which generally relate to :

1. Losses to the Growers pool fund
due to the inefficient functioning of promotion

units.

2. Malpractice in the Curing Works.

3. Inadequacy of returns to growers

4. Delay in payments to growers on
account of delay in finalisation of Accounts.

5. Inadequacy of Research efforts.

Action taken on the above are as follows

1. Selling price of Coffee powder and Beans
have been revised recently to be on a
more rational basis and in tune with the

prices prevailing in the market. It is
expected that subsidy to promotional
units would come down. Further, a Com-
mittee has been constituted by the Board
to look in to the functioning of promo-
tional Units and to suggest steps to be
taken to rationalise the functioning of
promotion Department and improve
performance of Promotional Units.

2. Verification of stocks in Curing Works
has been taken up and action initiated
wherever shortages have been found.
Growers have been given an opportu-
nity to witness the curing of their coffee.
Utilisation of funds given by Coffee Board
to the Cures is also closely monitored.

3. Payment to growers depends upon the
prices which the coffees fetch in the
local market and also in international
market. The sharp decline in prices in
international market during the last
over 2 years has got reflected in total
returns to growers.

4. Efforts are being made to finalise ac-
counts as early as possible so that
payments could be effected early after
the closure of accounts.

5. The Central Coffee Research Institute
(CCRI) of the Coffee Boards is instru-
mental in developing a new strain of
coffee by name " Cauvery " which not
only has high fruit density but also is
early yielding. A comprehensive Berry
Borer control measure has been taken
to ensure containing of berry Borer.
Extensive studies have also been un-
dertaken on drought hardiness of differ-
ent varieties of coffee and on Drip irriga-
tion. The CCRI has undertaken work on
tissue culture also.

(c) and (d) : Coffee Board is a creation
of a Coffee Act and has adequate powers for
the discharge of functions and responsibili-

ties assigned to it under the Coffee Act / Rules under the overall control and supervision of Government.

Spying and Espionage Activities of Army Personnel

4890. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) The number of serving / retired, service / civilian personnel charged with spying espionage activities during last one year alongwith separate figures for service and civilian personnel and the status thereof ;

(b) The action taken against each one of them; and

(c) The steps taken to check or plug such activities in future ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) During the last one year 6 serving Armed Forces personnel, 1 retired Service Officer and 4 civilians were alleged to be involved in spying / espionage activities

(b) Disciplinary action has been initiated against 5 serving Armed Forces personnel. One Defence Service personnel and one retired Service Officer have been remanded to police custody. The remaining four are under interrogation.

(c) Security measures to prevent leakage of information to unauthorised persons are Reviewed periodically. Appropriate counter measures are taken in the light of lapses which come to notice.

Ban on Import of Luxury goods and Export of essential Commodities

4891 SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the

Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) Whether the Government have received any representation regarding the ban on the import of luxury goods and on export of essential commodities ;

(b) If so, the details thereof ; and

(c) The reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (c). The new Export and Import policy effective from 1st April, 1992 is presently under formulation. Suggestion / representations received from various quarters in this regard will be kept in view while finalising the new policy.

[*Translation*]

Agreement with Mauritius on shipping transportation

4892. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY: SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA: DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with Mauritius during the last three months in the field of shipping transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?