

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1835
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2006
IMPORT/ EXPORT OF CASH CROPS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cash crops imported from and exported to during each of the last three years, country-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to modernize the industry by introducing new technology in order to increase the export of cash crops;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to increase export of cash crops?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Export/import data of some of the major cash crops for the last three years is given below:

Export:

(Quantity: Metric Tonne / Value: Rupees crores)

Commodity	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Cashew kernels	104137	1933.02	100828	1804.43	126667	2709.24
Spices	264107	2086.71	254382	1911.60	335488	2200.00
Tea	184400	1665.04	183070	1636.99	205820	1924.71
Coffee	207333	1051.45	232684	1158.45	211765#	1224.67
Tobacco & its products	127557	1095.95	150962	1175.63	162933	1362.18

> # including re-exports

Import:

Commodity	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Cashew kernels	400659	1236.57	452399	1400.93	578884	2183.26
Spices	121365	588.73	126234	563.63	97258	520.46
Tea	22490	105.32	11100	66.96	32480	144.95
Coffee	5613	16.10	8886	25.19	21035	63.18
Tobacco & its products	1487	42.50	1402	56.94	3684	108.24

(Source: Commodity Boards/Cashew Export Promotion Council) Country-wise details of exports/imports are available in the `Foreign Trade Statistics of India` compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata and in the Annual Reports of the Commodity Boards.

(b) & (c) Some of the commodity-specific steps taken by the Government in this regard are:

To improve the quality of the cashew kernels to meet requirements of international standards, the Department of Commerce through the Cashew Export Promotion Council is implementing on a continuing basis an integrated scheme for improving cashew kernel quality which includes setting up/improving the facilities for Cashew Kernels in Value Added Form/Consumer Packs, Quality Up-gradation by Process Improvement, Implementation of Internationally accepted Certification Scheme and Introduction of Flexi Pouch Vacuum Packing System.

Tobacco Board is making efforts to re-orient the production of tobacco to meet changing international demands and also to enhance the quality and productivity of tobacco grown in India by implementing several extension and developmental programmes, such as model project areas, integrated pest management etc. The Board is also making a focused approach to address concerns of

customers regarding elimination of non-tobacco related matters, product integrity and traceability, to meet the global standards by education and awareness programmes for farmers.

Spices Board is implementing a scheme namely `Adoption of High Tech and Technology Up- gradation` to infuse latest technologies into the Indian spice processing industry to enable the exporters to produce quality products meeting international standards.

Various steps taken include the sanctioning of a new scheme for providing incentives for production of orthodox teas, grant of subsidy @ Rs.1.50 per kg for export of tea through ICD (Inland Container Depot) Amingaon, securing statutory recognition of Darjeeling tea in various important jurisdictions as certification or collective marks, declaring Darjeeling tea as a Geographical Indication (GI) with effect from October 2004, reducing the import duty on tea bagging & packaging machinery used to add value to Indian tea to a rate of 5% and issuing a new Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005 on 01.04.2005 prescribing strict norms for tea with a view to maintaining quality and retaining the brand equity of Indian teas etc.

Coffee Board is implementing a medium-term export strategy to sustain and gain market share in the key markets and also to improve the competitiveness of Indian Coffee in the global markets over the next few years. The strategy includes shifting the product mix in favour of Arabica from the present emphasis on Robusta, ensuring competitive landed price of Indian Coffee by reducing growing costs by improving yields, improving consistency in the quality of exported coffee, improving awareness of Indian Coffee in target markets through communication efforts and integrating India with the global coffee trade by encouraging large buyers to set up offices in India.

(d) In order to ensure growth of export of agro-products including cash crops, the Government, through the Commodity Boards/Authorities and Export Promotion Councils has been providing assistance for conducting publicity campaigns, market surveys, sending delegations abroad, participating in international trade fairs, inviting potential buyers besides providing financial assistance for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of the products etc.