

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1031
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
SPICES IN KERALA
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production of cardamom, pepper and other spices in Kerala State;
- (b) whether the growers of cardamom, pepper and other spices in Kerala are facing serious difficulties due to the low price their produce is fetching for the past several years; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the action taken/proposed to help these farmers?

Answer

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

(a): The details of production of pepper and other spices in Kerala State is given below:-

Source: Cardamom & Vanilla: Estimate by Spices Board

Other spices: Department of Economic & Statistics, Govt of Kerala, Trivandrum.

(b) & (c): The prices of pepper, cardamom, chilli, clove are fetching higher prices as compared to the previous year. The prices of spices except that of ginger, turmeric and vanilla are showing upward trend during the April-October period 2006-07 as compared to the previous year. Board is implementing programmes like production and supply of quality planting material, re-planting of senile un-economic gardens, irrigation and land development, rain water harvesting and setting up of improved curing devices with alternate fuel in cardamom in Kerala state. In the case of vanilla, Board is supporting growers in setting up of curing devices and supply of planting material. Government of India has been giving a freight subsidy of Rs. 7 per kg i.e. Rs. 5 for ocean freight and Rs. 2 for internal transport subsidy for encouraging export of pepper up to a maximum of 20,000 MTs.