

the scope for developing Tuticorin and Nagapattinam ports for export of prawns as the volume offered for export at these places is not adequate

for reefer vessels to call at these ports. A self contained fishing harbour at a cost of Rs. 210 lakhs has already been constructed at Tuticorin.

Statement

Year	Catch of Prawn		Foreign exchange earnings from export of prawn through ports	
	in Tamil Nadu	in Kerala	in Tamil Nadu	in Kerala
	(in tonnes)		(Rs. in crores)	
1974	8,106	60,829	7.62	40.96
1975	12,033	77,962	11.49	55.96
1976 (Provisional)	10,350	34,533	21.76	81.44

Representative Office of American Bank in India

*256. SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed an American bank to convert its representative office in the capital into a fullfledged branch; and

(b) if so, the name of the said bank and other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). The Bank of America was originally permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to open a branch in New Delhi in June 1969. Instead of a branch, it opened a Representative Office in New Delhi in February, 1970. In June, 1977, the Bank of America was permitted to convert its Representative Office at New Delhi into a branch.

Reduction in the Price of Coffee Powder

*257. SHRI S. S. SOMANI:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE
GOWDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been some reduction in the price of coffee powder; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce the price of coffee particularly the price per cup to make it easily available to the common people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Coffee Board has taken the following steps to ensure the supply

of coffee to the public at reasonable rates:

(i) In 1976, 38,000 tonnes of coffee was released for internal consumption as against 51,588 tonnes which was exported. During the year 1977, when production will exceed 100,000 tonnes, it is estimated that 45,000 tonnes will be made available for internal consumption and 58,000 to 60,000 tonnes will be exported. This will ensure adequate supplies in the internal market.

(ii) The system of internal distribution adopted by the Coffee Board ensures release of adequate quantities of coffee mainly through pool auctions and direct distribution to retailers, Co-operative Societies and local sale depots etc.

(iii) Blended coffee powder is being sold through the propaganda units of the Coffee Board at the rate of 11.60 per kilo (inclusive of sales tax and packing charges). Coffee Board has fixed the maximum retail rates per kilo for coffee sold through Co-operative Societies, authorised dealers, receiving allotment of Coffee from the Coffee Board.

(iv) Inspections are made of Co-operative Societies and local sales depots etc. to ensure that coffee is sold at retail prices fixed by the Board.

As a result of these measures, the prices at which coffee powder is being sold has remained steady and have shown a slight decline, as of late.

भारतीय रुपये का भ्रवमूल्यन

* 258. श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा : क्या विन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1947 से 1976 तक की अवधि में कितनी बार किस दर से और किस क नन्तव में भारतीय रुपये का भ्रवमूल्यन हुआ;

(ख) इसके परिणामस्वरूप भारत पर विदेशी ऋण में, देशवार, कितनी वृद्धि हुई; और

(ग) अमरीकी डालर, ब्रिटिश पाँड और रूसी रबल की तुलना में भारतीय रुपये के मूल्य में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है ?

विन तथा राजस्व और बजिग मंत्री (श्री एच० एम० पटेल) : (क) वर्ष 1947 से 1976 तक की अवधि में भारतीय रुपये का भ्रवमूल्यन दो बार किया गया था। पहला भ्रवमूल्यन, जो 30.52 प्रतिशत का था, मितम्बर, 1949 में किया गया था, जब स्वर्गीय श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू प्रधान मंत्री थे। दूसरा भ्रवमूल्यन जो 36.5 प्रतिशत का था, 6 जून, 1966 को किया गया था जब श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी प्रधान मंत्री थी।

(ख) वर्ष 1949 में भारत पर कोई विदेशी ऋण नहीं था, इसलिए 1949 के भ्रवमूल्यन के कारण भारत पर विदेशी ऋणों का भार बढ़ने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता। भ्रवमूल्यन में विदेशी मुद्रा के रूप में भारत द्वारा लिये गये विदेशी ऋणों की राशि में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ परन्तु 1966 में किये गये भ्रवमूल्यन में रुपयों के रूप में हमारे विदेशी ऋण भार में 57.5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई।

(ग) चूंकि भ्रवमूल्यन का अभिप्राय मूल्य में कमी होना है, अतः रुपए के भ्रवमूल्यन के कारण विदेशी मुद्राओं की तुलना में भारतीय रुपये के मूल्य में वृद्धि होने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता।