

Preliminary Cardamom Crop loss assessment details

S. No.	Name of affected Taluk	Total Cardamom area affected (in ha.)	Total Cardamom area where crop loss >33%	Out of (4) area belonging to SMF			Assistance sought for different categories of crops			Total assistance sought (Rs. in lakh) as per NDRF
				Rain fed	Irrigated	Perennial	Rain fed (Rs.3000 X Col.5A)	Irrigated (Rs.6000 X Col.5B)	Perennial (Rs. 18000 X Col.5C)	
1	2	3	4	5A	5B	5C	6A	6B	6C	7 (6A+6B+6C)
1	MADIKERI	1135	1135	-	-	1135	-	-	204.30	204.30
2	VIRAJPET	215	215	-	-	215	-	-	38.70	38.70
3	SOMWARPET	456	456	-	-	456	-	-	82.08	82.08
	Total	1806	1806			1806	-	-		325.08

1. Report on Small cardamom Plant / Crop Loss due to Natural Calamities in the State of Kerala and Karnataka during August 2018

The states of Kerala and Karnataka were in the midst of an unprecedented heavy rain and flood havoc during August 2018. The natural calamity has caused immeasurable misery and devastation to land, agriculture and dwellings. Idukki, Wayanad, Palakkad and Kottayam Districts of Kerala and Kodagu, Hassan, Madikeri, Chickmagalure, Shimoga District of Karnataka were among the worst affected districts. The flood has washed away many houses and damaged the standing crops severely. For the first time in history, 33 dams in the state of Kerala including Idukki dam had opened. Never before had these two states witnessed a calamity of this scale and crop damage. The rain fall data revealed that this district has received 1878.4 mm of rain fall during the period from June to August 2018 (normal 600-700mm) which is 294.79 % excess than the normal rains.

Small cardamom is perennial and rhizomatous crop grown under the shade of forest trees in the Western Ghats of South India. Idukki district of Kerala is the major producer of Cardamom accounting for 85% of the cardamom production (small) in India. Cardamom is mainly grown by small and marginal farmers. The cardamom plantations in Idukki district have been very badly affected by incessant rains coupled with heavy winds, landslides, water stagnation, flooding, etc. Shade trees have fallen due to wind and fallen trees have damaged the cardamom plantations. Due to incessant rains, outbreak of diseases particularly Azhukal (Capsule rot) disease has been reported in cardamom plantations. There are plant losses and crop losses occurred due to the damage caused by heavy rains /wind/ flooding / water stagnation/ land slips and outbreak of rot diseases.

In Karnataka Region, heavy rainfall caused mainly clump rot, capsule rot, and stem lodging which contributed maximum crop loss. It also induced low bee activity, flower drop and consequent poor fruit setting. In addition to the above, damage caused by landslides and floods was least to the cardamom crop and as far as crop loss / plant loss are concerned, Kodagu district had shown maximum damage followed by Chickmagalur, Shimoga and Hassan.

Field offices of the Board had conducted survey for assessing the crop loss/ plant loss in the state of Kerala and Karnataka. It is estimated that 27-45% plant loss in cardamom hill reserve (CHR) with an anticipated crop loss of 42-50% during the current season. The detailed crop/plant loss are as follows:

Table : Small cardamom crop/ plant damage status

State	Total Area (Ha)	Yielding Area (Ha)	Non Yielding Area (Ha)	Total Crop Loss on Area basis		Total Plant Loss on Area basis		Production in 17-18 (MT)	Est. production in 18-19 (MT)
				Ha	(%)	Ha	(%)		
Kerala	39080	31577	7503	13243.4	41.94	17707.12	45.31	19955	11496
Karnataka	25135	17628	7507	8736.45	49.56	6660.78	26.5	1450	731

From the above table it is clear that around 50% cardamom plantations were affected severely which accounts for 85% of the farmers due to this natural disaster. Apart from these losses, damage of water storage facilities such as wells, water tanks, farm ponds, check dams, drip systems, pump sets, curing /storage houses, etc., may lead to lower the revenue, productivity and export of small cardamom. Being a high cost production and export oriented spice crop, it is recommended to provide financial assistance to the cardamom farmers for replanting and rejuvenate the plantations where the plant / crop losses occurred. It is also suggested to make available quality planting material at subsidised rates. Hence the following programmes are proposed for implementation.

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	For General Category		For SC/ST category	
		Kerala (Rs. Per ha)	Karnataka (Rs. Per ha)	Kerala (Rs. Per ha)	Karnataka (Rs. Per ha)
1	Small Cardamom Replanting	70,000.00	50,000.00	1,57,500.00	1,12,500.00
2	Certified Nursery for small cardamom	2.5/- per sucker	2.5/ per sucker	5.5/- per sucker	5.5/- per sucker
3	Small Cardamom Rejuvenation	32,500.00	23,000.00	32,500.00	23,000.00

Possible Questions and Answers for replying LS Q No.953 regarding damages to Spice Plantations in the States of Kerala and Karnataka.

1. Who are the major competitors for cardamom in international market and what is their average production ?

Ans: Guatemala is the largest producer and major competitor of cardamom in the international market with an average annual production of 25,000 to 30,000 MT .

2. What is the price difference between Indian cardamom and Guatemalan cardamom in the international market?

Ans: Due to high domestic demand, Indian cardamom prices are always on the higher side and uncompetitive in the international market. Guatemala used to quote lesser price than Indian cardamom as there is no domestic demand and their cost of production is comparatively less. However, Indian cardamom is preferred in the international market due to its intrinsic quality and high oil content.

3. Details of compensation given to cardamom farmers for damages caused due to the natural calamity ?

Ans: Compensation for natural calamities is provided through the State Government as it is State subject and hence the details are available with the State Governments of Kerala and Karnataka.

3. Is there any problem faced by India in export of cardamom ?

Ans: Yes. The Saudi Arabia Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) have started testing of pesticides in the imported consignments of Indian cardamom. Based on the analytical reports, Saudi Arabia has detained a few consignments of cardamom having pesticide residue above MRL during April-May 2018. Hence the export of cardamom to Saudi Arabia, the major market for Indian cardamom, has declined from 2923 MT in 2017-18 to 242 MT in 2018-19.

4. What action has been taken by the Government to resolve the issue ?

Ans: In order to address the pesticide residue in cardamom, Spices Board has conducted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) campaigns and Spice Clinic Programmes to create awareness among the growers and promoting the adoption of IPM, use of bio-inputs for pest & disease management, etc. in the major cardamom growing regions.

A delegation from Saudi Arabia Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) had visited Spices Board's Quality Evaluation Laboratory, spices export processing units, cardamom plantation and had discussion with Board's officials. During the discussion with officials of the Board, they suggested to send the details of pesticides used in cardamom by the farmers so that the testing may be done for the same pesticides in cardamom by the Quality Evaluation Laboratories of the Board before export to Saudi Arabia

The proposal by the Board for sending a delegation comprising of officials from Dept. of Commerce, Spices Board and leading exporters of cardamom to Saudi Arabia has been approved by Ministry of Commerce, Government of India for resolving the issue. The details of visit of the delegation is being finalised in consultation with Indian Embassy at Saudi Arabia. The delegation,

will brief the actions taken and actions proposed to address the pesticide issue and seek the concurrence to implement the testing of pesticides before export in a phased manner by Spices Board.

To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi
From : Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering provisionally admitted Lok Sabha Question Dy.No.4650 for answer on 04.12.2019 regarding Export/Import from Telangana

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a) the details of the total export and import separately of goods and services respectively in each of the last five years from/to the State of Telangana; and

Ans: The total number of registered exporters of spices in the State of Telangana is 105 Nos. The major spices exported from the State are Chilli and Turmeric. The exporters are procuring raw material from different states and after processing/value addition the finished products are exported through various ports. Hence the export details of spices from Telangana State are not available with the Board. Board has not received any information regarding import of spices into the State of Telangana.

b) the steps taken in each of the last five years to improve the export of goods and services from the State of Telangana ?

Ans: Telangana being one of the major producer of spices, Board has established Spice Development Agency (SDA) at Warangal for the overall development of spices produced in the State. The Spice Development Agency (SDA) is chaired by the Chief Secretary of the State and consisting of representatives from all the stakeholders of the industry including farmers, traders, exporters, various State / Central agencies, Agri Universities and Research Institutes. The objective of the agency is to converge schemes implemented by various State/Central Agencies for the development and export of spices from the State.

In order to make available quality exportable surplus, Board is implementing various schemes for Post Harvest quality improvement of Spices in the region. For implementing various schemes, Board has established a Regional office at Warangal and Divisional offices at Hyderabad & Nizamabad and one field office at Khammam. The Regional Office at Warangal is also facilitating the functioning of SDA.

Board is supporting farmers/farmers groups in the State by providing financial assistance to farmers/ farmers groups for Turmeric Boiler/Turmeric polisher etc. Board is also conducting Quality Improvement Training Programmes (QITP), Market Linkage Programmes, Extension visits, technical support to turmeric/chilli farmers for making available quality produce for export.

For the empowerment of farmers engaged in spices cultivation and processing, Spices Board is also implementing Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Skill Council of India (ASCI). The Board has conducted two such programmes (86 participants) in Telangana which will be continued.

Board has conducted a Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) at Hyderabad, Telangana on 8th June, 2017. The BSMs provide a common platform for the buyers and sellers of spice industry to interact and establish effective market linkages.

The districts of Kamman and Warrangal for chilli and Karimnagar and Nizamabad for Turmeric are identified for cluster formation under Agri Export Policy of Government of India for development of Turmeric and Chilli in Telangana.

Board has established a Special Turmeric Cell at Nizamabad by upgrading the field office at Nizamabad as Divisional office and an officer in the level of Assistant Director has been posted. Action is being taken to make the Turmeric cell fully operational catering to the needs of the turmeric farmers in the region. The Board has constituted a Turmeric Task Force to study various issues of Turmeric and to suggest measures to increase production and export of turmeric from the region. The first meeting was held on 16th October 2019. wherein the issue in the production, processing, marketing and export were discussed in detail. A draft road map has been drawn to address the issue pertaining to each category so that the line Department will take necessary action.

The details of programmes implemented by the Board for promoting export of spices from the State of Telangane is given as Annex – 1

27th November, 2019

DIRECTOR

i. Turmeric boiler

In order to improve the quality of turmeric after harvest, steam boiling units are supplied to the farmers at 50% subsidy in the actual cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.50 lakh per unit. For SC/ST, 75% of the actual cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.25 lakh per unit is extended as subsidy.

ii. Turmeric polisher

In order to improve the quality of turmeric, polishing has to be carried out after boiling and sun drying. The farmers are provided with financial assistance to buy turmeric polisher upto 50% of the actual cost for 1000-1500kg model turmeric polisher subject to a maximum of Rs. 75,000/- per unit. For SC/ST, 75% of the actual cost subject to maximum of Rs. 1,12,500/- per unit is extended as subsidy.

Details of fund utilised for the State of Telangana for implementing various programmes of the Board during the last few years is given below.

2015-16

Programmes under RKVY

- i. Silpaulin sheets - 110 nos.
- ii. Turmeric boiler - 15 nos.
- iii. Turmeric polisher - 2 nos.
- iv. Planting material - 200 kgs of turmeric mother rhizome
- v. Training programmes - 10 nos.
- vi. Exposure visit - 1 no.
- vii. Study tour - 1 no.
- viii. Market Linkage programme - 4 nos.

Total fund utilised during 2015-16 under RKVY - Rs. 88.75 lakh.

2016-17 – Fund utilised during 2016-17 : NIL

2017-18

Programmes under Export Oriented Production

- i. Turmeric boiler - 12 nos.; Rs. 17.40 lakh

Programmes under RKVY

- i. Turmeric boiler - 6 nos.; Rs. 9 lakh
- ii. Turmeric polisher - 1 no.; Rs. 0.71 lakh

Total fund utilised 2017-18 Rs.27.11 lakhs

2018-19

Programmes under Export Oriented Production

- i. Turmeric boiler - 13 nos.; Rs. 18.64 lakh
- ii. Turmeric polisher - 12 nos.; Rs. 7.96 lakh

Programmes under RKVY

- i. Turmeric boiler - 1 no.; Rs. 1.50 lakh

Total fund utilised 2018-19 Rs.28.10 lakhs

The details of area and production of spices in Telangana is given below:

AREA AND PRODUCTION OF SPICES IN TELANGANA		
	2018-19 (EST)	
SPICES	AREA(Hect)	PRDN (TONS)
CHILLIES	85000	304000
TURMERIC (Dry)	53000	319000
TAMARIND	2040	12995
GINGER (Fresh)	1877	12980
AJWAN SEED	1083	860
GARLIC	189	265
CORIANDER	1204	1000
TOTAL (INCL OTHERS)	144393	651100

(EST); ESTIMATE

Source : DASD Kozhikkode

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To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi

From : Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering LS Q DY.No.5852 for answer on 4.12.2019 regarding Import of Pepper

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a) Whether the domestic black pepper market is witnessing lower prices as compared to last year and whether subdued demand due to illegal imports is the reason behind it and if not the reason therefore

Ans: Yes. Domestic black pepper market is witnessing lower prices as compared to last year. The low price of pepper in domestic market is due to fall in international price of pepper because of increased global production coupled with imports of pepper from other origins. The subdued demand in the domestic market due to the reported illegal import of pepper from Vietnam, the largest producer of pepper in the world, routed through the neighbouring countries to avail the benefits under the free trade agreements has also affected the domestic prices. Vietnam is offering pepper at less than half the price of the Indian offers in the international market.

Pepper prices have come down during 2017-18 and 2018-19 & 2019-20 (Apr-Oct). The average domestic price of pepper(MG1) at Cochin during the 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are given below:

Year	Average Domestic Price at Cochin (MG-1) (Rs/Kg)
2016-17	694.77
2017-18	473.73
2018-19	378.21
2019-20 (April-Oct)	353.44

Source : IPSTA, Cochin

The global production of pepper for the last 2 years and the current year are given below:

Year	Global pepper production (in Lakh MT)
2017	5.13
2018	5.61
2019 (E)	5.13
2020 (*)	5.77

Source : IPC, Jakarta

(E): Estimate (*) : Projection

b) the details of total production of pepper in the country

Ans: The production of pepper in India during last 3 years and the projection for current year are given below:

Year	Production(MT)
2016-17	57000
2017-18	64000
2018-19	48000
2019-20(*)	61000

Source : Production : Trade Estimate
(*) Projection

c) Whether the import of pepper has increased during the last three years

Ans: Yes. The import of pepper has increased considerably during 2017-18 and 2018-19 compared to 2016-17.

d) if so the details of quantum and value of pepper imported during each of the last three years and the current year country-wise

Ans: The quantity and value of pepper imported into India during the last three years and the current year are given below :

Import of pepper into India		
Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs.lakhs)
2016-17	20265	111590.58
2017-18	29650	109083.80
2018-19(P)	24950	77991.40
2019-20(Apr-Aug) (Est)	10990	23535.30

(P) – Provisional

(EST): Estimate

Source : DGCI&S Kolkata/DLI from Customs

The import of pepper from other origins into India (country wise) during the last four years are given below:

COUNTRY-WISE IMPORT OF PEPPER INTO INDIA								
COUNTRY	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19(P)		2019-20 (Apr-Aug)(EST)	
	QTY	VALUE	QTY	VALUE	QTY	VALUE	QTY	VALUE
	(MT)	(Rs. Lakhs)	(MT)	(Rs. Lakhs)	(MT)	(Rs. Lakhs)	(MT)	(Rs. Lakhs)
Sri Lanka	4900	32830	13660	55169	7800	37986	2003	7842
Vietnam	9500	47785	10825	36757	10900	23653	6657	11129
Inodnesia	5000	26000	2320	8141	4050	9761	1034	2350
Brazil	500	2950	1980	6558	1900	4978	956	1528
Others	365	2026	866	2458	300	1614	340	686
Total	20265	111591	29650	109084	24950	77991	10990	23535

(P) – Provisional, (Est) : Estimate

Source : DGCI&S Kolkata/DLI from Customs

e) Whether the Government has imposed Minimum Import Price (MIP) for pepper to protect the interest of domestic pepper growers and if so the details thereof

Ans: Yes, Ministry of Commerce has imposed Minimum Import Price (MIP) for pepper to protect the interests of domestic pepper growers.

The Commerce Ministry has notified Minimum Import Price (MIP) for pepper @ Rs.500/- per kg vide DGFT Notification No.42/2015-20 dated 6.12.2017.

DGFT has issued amendment Notification dated 5.2.18 stating that the light black pepper imported under Advance Authorization for oleoresin extraction for re-exports by manufacturer exporter is exempted from MIP subject to the condition that the piperine content of the imported light black pepper should be minimum 6% and the samples shall be drawn by Customs and tested at Spices Board's Quality Evaluation Lab for piperine content by ISO 5564 method and oleoresin yield for AAS as per the ISO 1108 method

DGFT has issued another amendment Notification dated 21.3.2018 stating that the import of pepper over & above of CIF Rs.500/- per kilogram is free and below CIF Rs.500/- is prohibited and import of light black pepper for oleoresin extraction and re-export by manufacturer exporters is exempted subject to the condition that the piperine content of the imported light black pepper should be minimum 6% and the samples shall be drawn by Customs and tested at Spices Board's Quality Evaluation Lab for piperine content by ISO 5564 method and oleoresin yield for AAS as per the ISO 1108 method.

The pepper exporters have challenged the notifications issued by DGFT amending the import policy conditions of pepper in the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala and the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala has granted interim stay on these matters on 19th July 2018.

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry has exempted Minimum Import Price for pepper for imports under Advance Authorization Scheme, imports by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU) and units in Special Economic Zone (SEZ) vide DGFT notification dated 25th July 2018.

f) Whether pepper is smuggled into India from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal and Srilanka in the backdrop of country's exchequer loss on import duty

Ans: The Board has received representations from growers association / exporters that pepper from other origins are smuggled into India through some of the neighbouring countries viz. Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and that has been impacting the price of the indigenous produce. In order to prevent the illegal import / cheaper import of pepper into the country, the Spices Board has taken up the matter with JS (Customs) on 16.4.2018 to advise the Customs Officers in borders to tighten the vigil on import of pepper in borders to prevent the pilferage of import consignments of pepper intended for Nepal / other border countries, into Indian markets and to take action against such illegal importers / traders of pepper.

g) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to stop unscrupulous and unchecked imports of low priced black pepper into the country

Ans: The Spices Board / Commerce Ministry have taken the following actions to curb the alleged malpractices connected with pepper imports.

The Board has sent the copy of the representation of Consortium of Pepper Growers Organizations regarding curbing malpractices in import of pepper to the Joint Director, Enforcement Directorate, New Delhi on 16.1.2018 with copy to Chennai and Kochi enforcement offices requesting them to look into the matter and to take actions to prevent the malpractices, if any, in the import of pepper.

The Pepper Growers Traders Consortium has recently sent a representation to the Spices Board that over-invoicing of pepper imports into India is a serious concern. The Spices Board has taken up the matter with Principal Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), New Delhi on 23.9.2019 to take actions to prevent the over invoicing, if any, in import of pepper from other origins.

The Spices Board has sent a proposal to Chairman, FSSAI on 18th January 2018 to test all imported consignments of pepper as per FSSAI and Codex norms to prevent the import of inferior quality pepper into India from other origins. The Board's officers had a meeting with Director (Imports), FSSAI recently. As per FSSAI order dated 10.9.2019, the testing of imported black pepper is done as per FSS (Food Products and Standards and Food Additives) Regulation 2011 and FSS (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations 2011 to ensure compliance of standards. FSSAI has decided that the additional testing of pesticides namely Acetamiprid, Dithiocarbamates and Prochloraz shall be done (tolerance limit 0.01 ppm) in samples from imported black pepper before clearance with effect from 1.1.2020.

The Board has taken up with DGFT and Commerce Ministry that allotment of licenses for duty free import of pepper from Sri Lanka under India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement may be considered for allotment to manufacturer exporters having facility for oil and oleoresin extraction for re-export purpose and allotment to 100% EOU units/SEZ units for value addition and re-export only to prevent the entry of imported pepper from Sri Lanka into domestic trade.

Pepper prices are ruling higher in India than other origins. Since most of the pepper producing countries are in ASEAN region, there is possibility of pepper produced in ASEAN countries including Vietnam is routed through the SAARC countries or Sri Lanka for availing the concessional import duty under the SAFTA and ISLFTA. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt of India has constituted a Technical team vide their OM. No.K-52015/5/2018-FT(SA) dt.13-9-2018, inter alia, to examine the alleged violations of Rules of origin criteria by Srilanka while exporting pepper into India. The Committee is also entrusted to study the trade profile and industry profile of pepper for Srilanka and to examine in detail the existing procedures in Srilanka for issuing the Certificate of Origin and the mechanism set up by Srilanka for verification of authenticity of certificates issued for black pepper shipments exported from Srilanka under ISFTA & SAFTA.

h) Whether the Government is bound by ASEAN Agreement to import pepper from member countries at Cheaper rate.

Ans: Yes. Pepper is imported into India at 51 % import duty (wef 1.1.2019) from member countries of ASEAN as per ASEAN Agreement.

27th November, 2019

DIRECTOR

Supplementary

1. At present, Pepper is imported into India under the following schemes :

- i) Maximum quantity of 2500 tonnes per year without Import duty as per Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka
- ii) Import under SAFTA agreement at 8% import duty without any quantitative and qualitative restriction
- iii) Import under ASEAN Agreement at 51% import duty ((wef 1.1.2019) without any quantitative and qualitative restriction
- iv) Import under normal duty of 70% from all other countries
- v) Duty free Import under Advance Authorization Scheme for processing and re-export with a minimum of 15% value addition.

2. The export of pepper from India during last 4 years are given below:

YEAR	QUANTITY(MT)	VALUE (RS.LAKHS)
2014-15	21450	120842
2015-16	28100	173041
2016-17	17600	114313
2017-18	16840	82078
2018-19	13540	56868
2019-20 (Apr_Sept)(Est)	8300	27297

(EST) : Estimate

Source : DGCI&S Kolkata/Exporters Returns/DLE from Customs

3. The average FOB price of pepper at Source Markets for the period from 2015-16 to 2018-19 are given below:

AVERAGE FOB PRICE OF PEPPER AT SOURCE MARKETS (USD/TON)				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
INDIA	9729	10176	7232	5449
INDONESIA	9278	8225	4397	3019
MALAYSIA	9956	8870	6184	3187
VIETNAM	8807	7457	3806	2581

SOURCE : IPC JAKARTA

4. The monthly average domestic price of pepper for the last eight months is given below:

Month/year	Average domestic price of Pepper (MG1) at Cochin (Rs/Kg)
April 2019	352.87
May 2019	366.57
June 2019	366.50
July 2019	355.11
August 2019	354.72
September 2019	346.65
October 2019	331.64

Source : IPSTA, Cochin

5. The daily average domestic price of pepper during the current month is given below:

Date	Average domestic price of Black Pepper MG1 at Cochin(Rs/Kg)
1.11.2019	318
2.11.2019	318
3.11.2019	Sunday
4.11.2019	319
5.11.2019	325
6.11.2019	325
7.11.2019	328
8.11.2019	331
9.11.2019	335
10.11.2019	Sunday
11.11.2019	337
12.11.2019	338
13.11.2019	339
14.11.2019	339
15.11.2019	339
16.11.2019	339
17.11.2019	Sunday
18.11.2019	341
19.11.2019	345
20.11.2019	345
21.11.2019	347
22.11.2019	347
23.11.2019	347
24.11.2019	Sunday
25.11.2019	350
26.11.2019	352

Source : IPSTA, Cochin

The domestic consumption of pepper for 2017 to 2020 are given below:

Domestic consumption of Pepper in India	
Year	Domestic consumption(MT)
2017	55000
2018	56500
2019(Est)	57000
2020(proj)	57500

Shri Ambuj Sharma
 Deputy Director (NAFTA)
 Ministry of Commerce & Industry
 Department of Commerce
 Ud\yog Bhavan
 New Delhi.
 Email: ambuj.sharma81@gov.in

Sir,

Sub: Issues raised by Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Hon'ble Member of parliament
 regarding rejections of spice consignments by USA & EU
 Ref: Letter No.19/2/2015/FT(NAFTA) dated 4th November, 2019

Kindly refer to the above cited letter regarding the rejections of spice consignments by USA & EU due to pesticide residues. In this connection, it may be noted that the rejections of Indian spices by EU and USA are very minimal. Only two cases of rejections of spices were reported one each by EU and USA during the last two years 2018 and 2019, the details of which are given below:

	Country	Date	Notifying country	Spice	Hazard
1	USFDA/ Import refusal	28/05/20 19	USA	Capsicums, ground and cracked	Pesticide
2	RASFF/	05/01/20 18	Germany	Black pepper powder	Unauthorized substance – Ethylene oxide

The rejections of spice consignments by EU & USA is very minimal due to implementation of mandatory testing and certification of export consignments by Spices Board for pesticide residues in the case of selected spices destined for EU, USA and Japan. The seven Quality Evaluation Laboratories established by the Board in the major centres of export is undertaking the mandatory quality testing and certification of export consignments of selected spices for different destinations.

Yours faithfully,
 Sd/
 DIRECTOR

a) The total number of registered exporters of spices in the State of Telangana is nos. The major spices exported from the State are Chilli and Turmeric. The exporters are procuring raw material from different states and after processing/value addition the finished products are exported through various ports. Hence the state wise export details of spices are not available with the Board.

b) The details of programmes implemented by the Board for promoting export of spices from the State of Telangane is given as Annex – 1

Telangana being one of the major producer of spices, Board has established Spice Development Agency (SDA) at Warangal for the overall development of spices produced in the State. The Spice Development Agency (SDA) is chaired by the Chief Secretary of the State and consisting of representatives from all the stakeholders of the industry including farmers, traders, exporters, various State / Central agencies, Agri Universities and Research Institutes. The objective of the agency is to converge schemes implemented by various State/Central Agencies for the development and export of spices from the State.

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Board has conducted a Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) at Hyderabad, Telangana on 8th June, 2017. The BSMs provide a common platform for the buyers and sellers of spice industry to interact and establish effective market linkages.

The districts of Kamam and Warrangal for chilli and Karimnagar and Nizamabad for Turmeric are identified for cluster formation under Agri Export Policy of Government of India for development of Turmeric and Chilli in Telangana.

Board has established a Special Turmeric Cell at Nizamabad by upgrading the field office at Nizamabad as Divisional office and an officer in the level of Assistant Director has been posted. Action is being taken to make the Turmeric cell fully operational catering to the needs of the turmeric farmers in the region. The Board has constituted a Turmeric Task Force to study various issues of Turmeric and the first meeting was held on

To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi
From : Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject : Material for answering Lok Sabha admitted Question Dy.No. 1586 for answer on 27.11.2019 a regarding Steps for promoting Exports.

a) Yes. Government of India has launched the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) in the year 2017. The objective of the scheme is to enhance export competitiveness by bridging gaps in export infrastructure, creating focused export infrastructure, first mile and last mile connectivity for export-oriented projects and addressing quality and certification measures.

The Central and State Agencies, including Export Promotion Councils, Commodities Boards, SEZ Authorities and Apex Trade Bodies recognised under the EXIM policy of Government of India; are eligible for financial support under this scheme. The Central Government funding will be in the form of grant-in-aid, normally not more than the equity being put in by the implementing agency or 50% of the total equity in the project. (In case of projects located in North Eastern States and Himalayan States including J&K, this grant can be upto 80% of the total equity).The grant in aid shall, normally, be subject to a ceiling of Rs 20 Cr for each infrastructure project.

b) The details are not available with the Board.

c) The details of export development and promotion schemes implemented by the Board for increasing export of Spices from the country is given as Annex -1

d)&e) The details are not available with the Board.

26th November, 2019

DIRECTOR

Export development and promotion programmes implemented by the Board for Spices.

Board is implementing the following export development and promotion activities for increasing export of spices from India. Board is giving financial assistance to exporters of spices through the following programmes and the details of assistance given to exporters are given below:

Component	Scale of assistance
Infrastructure Development	33% of the cost of infrastructure development for export excluding land and buildings, subject to a maximum of Rs.100 lakhs for general areas and 50% of the cost or Rs.200 lakhs for NE Region and special areas. This scheme was implemented during the 12 th Plan period.
Interest Equalization for Infrastructure Development (Scheme proposed for implementation during the MTF Plan 2017-18 to 2019-20. Approval of the guidelines is awaited)	<p>Under this scheme, Board aims to assist exporters in adoption of Hi-Tech in Spice Processing/Technology and Process Upgradation/Setting-up/up-gradation of in-house quality control laboratory/Quality certification by providing 3% interest subsidy on a term loan up to Rs.10.00 crore from the Nationalized banks and Scheduled Banks subject to a maximum of Rs.30.00 lakhs per year for 3 years, irrespective of rate of commercial lending. The assistance will be limited to the cost of machinery / equipments /electrical items related /connected to equipments, ancillary installations, supporting facilities/ items such as control panel, cable trenching, transformer etc and installation /erection charges.</p> <p>Exporter can avail the Interest Equalization assistance subject to a maximum of Rs.30 lakhs per year for single project or for multiple projects, subject to a maximum of Rs 90 lakhs for 3 years.</p>
Trade Promotion	<p>Up to Rs.50,000 per exporter per year for sending business samples abroad;</p> <p>50% of the cost of Packaging Development & Bar coding subject to a ceiling of Rs.1.00 lakh per exporter per year to Brand Registered exporters and Organic Certificate holders</p>
Product Development & Research	50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs.25 lakh per beneficiary during the Plan period. If clinical trials and patenting are involved the ceiling will be Rs.1 crore to R&D institutes and exporters having such facilities.
Spice Processing in NE Region	33% of the cost of all types of processing facilities subject to a maximum of Rs.50 lakhs per beneficiary during the Plan period. In respect of farmers' groups, the assistance will be up to 50% of the cost of all type of processing facilities subject to a maximum of Rs.50.00.
Market Study Abroad	100% of the cost is met from Board's budget.

<p>Promotion of Indian spice brands</p>	<p>Interest-free loan covering 100% of slotting/listing fee and promotional measures for the first year and 100% of all promotional measures will be given by the Board. Support for product development should be limited to 50% of the cost. The ceiling fixed is Rs.1.00 crore for brand promotion. The disbursements will be in instalments based on achievements.</p>
<p>Participation in Intl. Fairs/Meetings/ Seminars/Trainings</p>	<p>Reimburse 50% of the airfare (economy excursion class) subject to a maximum of Rs.60,000/- for Indian Spices Logo/Spice House Certificate holders and Rs.40,000/- for holders of regd. Brand and Organic certificate per exporter per year. In case of hiring independent stall, 50% of the cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.1 lakh per exporter per year.</p>
<p>he basic objective of the concept is to provide common infrastructure facilities for both post harvest and processing operations like cleaning, grading, sorting, packing and storage of spices which can be utilised by the local farming community and other stakeholders of the industry. Apart from this, Board also developed other common infrastructure facilities like the like Roads, Water supply system, Power stations, Fire fighting & Control systems, Weighing bridges, effluent Treatment Plants, Quality Lab for checking basic parameters etc. in the park. Buyer Seller Meet (During the MTF Plan period)</p>	<p>The Board is conducting Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) in the major growing areas including NE region to establish direct market linkage between farmers/farmers groups and exporters/processors/institutional buyers to help the farmers to realize better price by reducing/eliminating middleman in the supply chain. The exporters will get quality produce besides ensuring traceability. The proposals from Board's Regional Offices / SDAs / SPEDA will be considered. 100% expenditure will be provided under the scheme.</p>
<p>Establishment/ Maintenance of Common Infrastructure facilities – Spices Parks.</p>	<p>Board is establishing Spices Parks in major production and trading centres of spices. Spices Park is a common Centre for processing and value addition of Spices and Spice products in major production / market center which offers the processing facilities at par with the international standards. So far 8 spice parks are established by the Board at Puttady in Kerala, Chhindwara and Guna in Madhya Pradesh, Jodhpur and Kota in Rajasthan, Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu, Rae Bareli in UP and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh.</p> <p>The basic objective of the concept is to provide common infrastructure facilities for both post harvest and processing operations like cleaning, grading, sorting, packing and storage of spices which can be utilised by the local farming community and other stakeholders of the industry. Apart from this, Board also developed other common infrastructure facilities like the like Roads, Water supply system, Power stations, Fire fighting & Control systems, Weighing bridges, effluent Treatment Plants, Quality Lab for checking basic parameters etc. in the park.</p> <p>After establishing the common infrastructure facilities in the park, Board lease out the available land to registered spices exporters to set up their on processing units so that exporters can make a direct link with the farmers which will ensure the uninterrupted supply of raw</p>

	<p>material eliminating the intermediaries in the supply chain which will benefit both farmers and exporters</p>
<p>Establishment of Quality Evaluation Laboratories</p>	<p>To enhance the quality capabilities of spice industry and to ensure quality of spices exported from India to match the specified international standards, Spices Board had set up Quality Evaluation Laboratories in major exporting/growing centres. Board has established Quality Evaluation Laboratories in Cochin, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Guntur, Tuticorin and Kandla. The establishment of the Quality Evaluation Lab at Kolkata is nearing completion. The Laboratories established by the Board are providing analytical services to all the stakeholders of Indian Spice Industry. It also undertakes analysis of export consignment samples under the mandatory inspection of Spices Board. It has facilities to analyze various physical, chemical and microbial parameters including pesticide residues, aflatoxin, heavy metals and contaminants/adulterant artificial dyes in spices and spice products. The Laboratory follows internationally accepted test methods for various analysis and validates new methods as and when necessary.</p>

To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi
From: Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering LS Unstarred Question No.2904 regarding vacant posts in North Eastern States by Shri Baddrudin Ajmal MP

a, b & c: Spices Board is implementing various development and research programmes for cardamom (small & large) and export promotion programmes for the 52 scheduled spices across different states in the country including North Eastern States. Officers and supporting staff are posted in various States based on the staff requirement for implementing programmes of the Board. Hence there is no separate sanctioned strength for NE and other States/Regions.

At present Board has 25 Regional/Field Offices functioning in North Eastern States including Sikkim and 52 officers and supporting staff are working in the Region.

11th November, 2019

DIRECTOR

To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary (Plantations), MoC&I, New Delhi
From : Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering Lok Sabha starred Q.Dy.No.10648 for answer
on 11th December, 2019 regarding "Restrictions on Farm Export"

.....

(a) Whether export restrictions are put on farm exports, if so, the details thereof; and

Ans: No export restrictions are put on export of spices and spice products from India. Spices Board is under taking mandatory testing and certification of selected spices/spice products for export ,to ensure compliance of the product with the importing countries quality specifications.

(b) Whether these export restrictions have disadvantaged farmers in the international market, if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government therefor?

Ans: NA

3rd November, 2019

DIRECTOR

Supplementaries

Establishment of Quality Evaluation Laboratories

To enhance the quality capabilities of spice industry and to ensure quality of spices exported from India to match the specified international standards, Spices Board had set up Quality Evaluation Laboratories in major exporting/growing centres. Board has established Quality Evaluation Laboratories in Cochin, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Guntur, Tuticorin and Kandla. The establishment of the Quality Evaluation Lab at Kolkata is nearing completion. The Laboratories established by the Board are providing analytical services to all the stakeholders of Indian Spice Industry. It also undertakes analysis of export consignment samples under the mandatory testing and certification of Spices Board. It has facilities to analyze various physical, chemical and microbial parameters including pesticide residues, aflatoxin, heavy metals and contaminants/adulterant artificial dyes in spices and spice products. The Laboratory follows internationally accepted test methods for various analysis and validates new methods as and when necessary.

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To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi
From : Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering Lok Sabha Admitted Unstarred Question No.2585 regarding steps for promoting exports

.....
a) the details of all schemes /interventions and steps taken by the Government for the promotion of Indian exports in the global trade;

Ans: India is the single largest producer and exporter of wide range of spices in the global spice market by exporting spices and spice products to more than 145 countries. Export development and promotion, value addition and quality improvement are the major thrust area for the Government. The details of export promotion programmes implemented by Spices Board for increasing the export of spices and spice products from the country is given as Annex -1.

During the last 5 years, spices exports from India is growing at a CAGR of 5% in volume 7% in rupee terms and 4% in dollar terms of value. During 2018-19, a total of 11,00,250 MT of spices and spice products valued Rs.19505.81 crore (US\$ 2805.50 Million) has been exported from the country as against 10,28,060 MT valued Rs.17980.16 crore (US\$ 2789.35 Million) in 2017-18, registering an increase of 7% in volume, 8% in rupee terms and 1% in dollar terms of value.

b&c : the details of reforms undertaken in the industrial policy for improving business environment and bringing foreign invests in India; and the details of the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen India's manufacturing sector vis-a-vis other nations with regard to better performance in free trade agreements ?

Ans: For supporting the manufacturing in spice sector, Board has established Spices Parks in major production and trading centres of spices. Spices Park is a common Centre for processing and value addition of Spices and Spice products in major production / market center which offers the processing facilities at par with the international standards. So far 8 spice parks are established by the Board at Puttady in Kerala, Chhindwara and Guna in Madhya Pradesh, Jodhpur and Kota in Rajasthan, Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu, Rae Bareli in UP and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh.

The basic objective of the concept is to provide common infrastructure facilities for both post harvest and processing operations like cleaning, grading, sorting, packing and storage of spices which can be utilised by the local farming community and other stakeholders of the industry. Apart from this, Board will also develop other common infrastructure facilities like the like Roads, Water supply system, Power stations, Fire fighting & Control systems, Weighing bridges, effluent Treatment Plants, Quality Lab for checking basic parameters etc. in the park.

Board is also leasing out the available land in the park to registered spices exporters to set up their on processing units so that exporters can make a direct link with the farmers which will ensure the uninterrupted supply of raw material eliminating the intermediaries in the supply chain which will benefit both farmers and exporters.

-----29th
November, 2019

DIRECTOR

Export development and promotion programmes implemented by the Board for Spices.

Board is implementing the following export development and promotion activities for increasing export of spices from India. Board is giving financial assistance to exporters of spices through the following programmes and the details of assistance given to exporters are given below:

Component	Scale of assistance
Infrastructure Development	33% of the cost of infrastructure development for export excluding land and buildings, subject to a maximum of Rs.100 lakhs for general areas and 50% of the cost or Rs.200 lakhs for NE Region and special areas. This scheme was implemented during the 12 th Plan period.
Interest Equalization for Infrastructure Development (Scheme proposed for implementation during the MTF Plan 2017-18 to 2019-20. Approval of the guidelines is awaited)	<p>Board is establishing Spices Parks in major production and trading centres of spices. Spices Park is a common Centre for processing and value addition of Spices and Spice products in major production / market center which offers the processing facilities at par with the international standards. So far 8 spice parks are established by the Board at Puttady in Kerala, Chhindwara and Guna in Madhya Pradesh, Jodhpur and Kota in Rajasthan, Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu, Rae Bareli in UP and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh.</p> <p>The basic objective of the concept is to provide common infrastructure facilities for both post harvest and processing operations like cleaning, grading, sorting, packing and storage of spices which can be utilised by the local farming community and other stakeholders of the industry. Apart from this, Board will also develop other common infrastructure facilities like the like Roads, Water supply system, Power stations, Fire fighting & Control systems, Weighing bridges, effluent Treatment Plants, Quality Lab for checking basic parameters etc. in the park.</p> <p>After establishing the common infrastructure facilities in the park, Board lease out the available land to registered spices exporters to set up their on processing units so that exporters can make a direct link with the farmers which will ensure the uninterrupted supply of raw material eliminating the intermediaries in the supply chain which will benefit both farmers and exporters</p>
Trade Promotion	Up to Rs.50,000 per exporter per year for sending business samples abroad; 50% of the cost of Packaging Development & Bar coding subject to a ceiling of Rs.1.00 lakh per exporter per year to Brand Registered exporters and Organic Certificate holders
Product Development & Research	50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs.25 lakh per beneficiary during the Plan period. If clinical trials and

	patenting are involved the ceiling will be Rs.1 crore to R&D institutes and exporters having such facilities.
Spice Processing in NE Region	33% of the cost of all types of processing facilities subject to a maximum of Rs.50 lakhs per beneficiary during the Plan period. In respect of farmers' groups, the assistance will be up to 50% of the cost of all type of processing facilities subject to a maximum of Rs.50.00.
Market Study Abroad	100% of the cost is met from Board's budget.
Promotion of Indian spice brands	Interest-free loan covering 100% of slotting/listing fee and promotional measures for the first year and 100% of all promotional measures will be given by the Board. Support for product development should be limited to 50% of the cost. The ceiling fixed is Rs.1.00 crore for brand promotion. The disbursements will be in instalments based on achievements.
Participation in Intl. Fairs/Meetings/ Seminars/Trainings	Reimburse 50% of the airfare (economy excursion class) subject to a maximum of Rs.60,000/- for Indian Spices Logo/Spice House Certificate holders and Rs.40,000/- for holders of regd. Brand and Organic certificate per exporter per year. In case of hiring independent stall, 50% of the cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.1 lakh per exporter per year.
Buyer Seller Meet (During the MTF Plan period)	The Board is conducting Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) in the major growing areas including NE region to establish direct market linkage between farmers/farmers groups and exporters/processors/ institutional buyers to help the farmers to realize better price by reducing/eliminating middleman in the supply chain. The exporters will get quality produce besides ensuring traceability. The proposals from Board's Regional Offices / SDAs / SPEDA will be considered. 100% expenditure will be provided under the scheme.
Establishment/ Maintenance of Common Infrastructure facilities – Spices Parks.	<p>Board is establishing Spices Parks in major production and trading centres of spices. Spices Park is a common Centre for processing and value addition of Spices and Spice products in major production / market center which offers the processing facilities at par with the international standards. So far 8 spice parks are established by the Board at Puttady in Kerala, Chhindwara and Guna in Madhya Pradesh, Jodhpur and Kota in Rajasthan, Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu, Rae Bareli in UP and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh.</p> <p>The basic objective of the concept is to provide common infrastructure facilities for both post harvest and processing operations like cleaning, grading, sorting, packing and storage of spices which can be utilised by the local farming community and other stakeholders of the industry. Apart from this, Board will also develop other common infrastructure facilities like the like Roads, Water supply system, Power stations, Fire fighting & Control systems, Weighing bridges, effluent Treatment Plants, Quality Lab for checking basic parameters etc. in the park.</p> <p>After establishing the common infrastructure facilities in</p>

	<p>the park, Board lease out the available land to registered spices exporters to set up their on processing units so that exporters can make a direct link with the farmers which will ensure the uninterrupted supply of raw material eliminating the intermediaries in the supply chain which will benefit both farmers and exporters</p>
<p>Establishment of Quality Evaluation Laboratories</p>	<p>To enhance the quality capabilities of spice industry and to ensure quality of spices exported from India to match the specified international standards, Spices Board had set up Quality Evaluation Laboratories in major exporting/growing centres. Board has established Quality Evaluation Laboratories in Cochin, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Guntur, Tuticorin and Kandla. The establishment of the Quality Evaluation Lab at Kolkata is nearing completion. The Laboratories established by the Board are providing analytical services to all the stakeholders of Indian Spice Industry. It also undertakes analysis of export consignment samples under the mandatory inspection of Spices Board. It has facilities to analyze various physical, chemical and microbial parameters including pesticide residues, aflatoxin, heavy metals and contaminants/adulterant artificial dyes in spices and spice products. The Laboratory follows internationally accepted test methods for various analysis and validates new methods as and when necessary.</p>

To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi
From: Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.U770 regarding special recruitment drive for SCs/STs.

(a) the details of the special recruitment drive for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe in all the Government departments and Central Public Sector Undertakings;

Ans: Spices Board is conducting recruitment of SC/ ST candidates to various categories based on the vacancy arises as per the reservation roster.

(b) the total number of such vacancies in various departments on which candidates are to be recruited under SC/ST category; And

(c) the details of programmes run by Government for filling up all the existing vacancies for SCs/STs ?

Ans: b) & c) The details of number of vacancies to be recruited under the SC/ST categories in Spices Board are given below. Board has not made any recruitment/promotion since February 2017 as per the directions from the Ministry in view of the austerity measures. The total sanctioned strength of Spices Board is 513 and the existing strength as on 31.10.2019 is 341. Further a proposal for reduction of staff strength from 513 to 379 has been submitted to Ministry. Once it is approved, the sanctioned strength will be reduced to 379 and corresponding vacancies will also be reduced accordingly.

Category	Vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment as per the present sanctioned strength of 513
SC s	9
ST s	4
Total	13

18th November, 2019

DIRECTOR

To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi

From: Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering LS Starred Qn. No.953 for 20.11.2019 regarding damages to Coffee and Spices Plantations

.....

(a) Whether any assessment of damage caused to coffee and spices plantations in the state of Karnataka and Kerala has been made in view of heavy rains and flood in the regions;

Ans: Yes. Spices Board had made assessment of the damage caused to small cardamom plantations in the states of Karnataka & Kerala in view of heavy rains and floods in these regions during August 2018. Regarding spice plantations other than cardamom, the responsibility is vested with the State Agri/Horti Department and hence the details are available with the State Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Ans: The report on assessment of damage caused to Cardamom Plantations in the States of Kerala and Karnataka is attached as Annex-1

(c) Whether the Government intends to provide some incentives and relief to coffee and spices growers to help them establish their plantation;

Ans: Yes

(d) if so the details thereof;

Ans: Government has approved the proposal submitted by the Spices Board for undertaking re-plantation and production of quality planting materials for small cardamom in the flood affected Districts of Kerala and Karnataka at a total budget allocation of Rs.17.07 crore. The programme is being implemented during the on-going Medium Term Framework (MTF) period of 2018-19 and 2019-20. Subsequently, the Govt. Of India has approved the programme for Rejuvenation of flood affected cardamom plantations with an allocation of Rs.8.80 Crore in addition to the above two programmes. These programmes are implemented within the existing budgetary provisions of the Board. As per the approval, the Board started implementing the Re plantation and production of planting material during 2018-19 which is being continued during 2019-20. In the case of rejuvenation scheme, since the approval was received during the current financial year, the programme is being implemented in the States of Kerala and Karnataka during 2019-20.

The scale of grant in aid approved by the Government for different schemes are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	For General Category		For SC/ST category	
		Kerala (Rs. Per ha)	Karnataka (Rs. Per ha)	Kerala (Rs. Per ha)	Karnataka (Rs. Per ha)
1	Small Cardamom Replanting	70,000.00	50,000.00	1,57,500.00	1,12,500.00
2	Certified Nursery for small cardamom	2.5/- per sucker	2.5/ per sucker	5.5/- per sucker	5.5/- per sucker
3	Small Cardamom Rejuvenation	32,500.00	23,000.00	32,500.00	23,000.00

(e) & (f) Whether the Government has constituted any Task Force to assess the extent of damage due to natural calamity and suggest suitable measures; if so, the details thereof; and

Ans: Spices Board had assessed the extent of damage with the help of Field functionaries in both the states without constituting any Task Force. The measures suggested by the Board for compensating the damage caused to the cardamom plantations by the natural calamity is given in the damage assessment report – Annex - 1

(g) the time likely to be taken to ensure that coffee and spices growers attain financial stability

Ans: The flood relief programmes implemented by the Board is for five years and the affected plantations will start yielding by 2021-22. Hence the cardamom farmers will get the benefit of the programme from the year 2021-22.

14th November, 2019

DIRECTOR

Note for Pad

1. Report on Small cardamom Plant / Crop Loss due to Natural Calamities in the State of Kerala and Karnataka during August 2018

The states of Kerala and Karnataka were in the midst of an unprecedented heavy rain and flood havoc during August 2018. The natural calamity has caused immeasurable misery and devastation to land, agriculture and dwellings. Idukki, Wayanad, Palakkad and Kottayam Districts of Kerala and Kodagu, Hassan, Madikeri, Chickmagalur, Shimoga District of Karnataka were among the worst affected districts. The flood has washed away many houses and damaged the standing crops severely. For the first time in history, 33 dams in the state of Kerala including Idukki dam had opened. Never before had these two states witnessed a calamity of this scale and crop damage. The rain fall data revealed that this district has received 1878.4 mm of rain fall during the period from June to August 2018 (normal 600-700mm) which is 294.79 % excess than the normal rains.

Small cardamom is perennial and rhizomatous crop grown under the shade of forest trees in the Western Ghats of South India. Idukki district of Kerala is the major producer of Cardamom accounting for 85% of the cardamom production (small) in India. Cardamom is mainly grown by small and marginal farmers. The cardamom plantations in Idukki district have been very badly affected by incessant rains coupled with heavy winds, landslides, water stagnation, flooding, etc. Shade trees have fallen due to wind and fallen trees have damaged the cardamom plantations. Due to incessant rains, outbreak of diseases particularly Azhukal (Capsule rot) disease has been reported in cardamom plantations. There are plant losses and crop losses occurred due to the damage caused by heavy rains /wind/ flooding / water stagnation/ land slips and outbreak of rot diseases.

In Karnataka Region, heavy rainfall caused mainly clump rot, capsule rot, and stem lodging which contributed maximum crop loss. It also induced low bee activity, flower drop and consequent poor fruit setting. In addition to the above, damage caused by landslides and floods was least to the cardamom crop and as far as crop loss / plant loss are concerned, Kodagu district had shown maximum damage followed by Chickmagalur, Shimoga and Hassan.

Field offices of the Board had conducted survey for assessing the crop loss/ plant loss in the state of Kerala and Karnataka. It is estimated that 27-45% plant loss in cardamom hill reserve (CHR) with an anticipated crop loss of 42-50% during the current season. The detailed crop/plant loss are as follows:

Table : Small cardamom crop/ plant damage status

State	Total Area (Ha)	Yielding Area (Ha)	Non Yielding Area (Ha)	Total Crop Loss on Area		Total Plant Loss on Area basis		Production in 17-18 (MT)	Est. production in 18-19 (MT)
				Ha	(%)	Ha	(%)		
Kerala	39080	31577	7503	13243.4	41.94	17707.12	45.31	19955	11496
Karnataka	25135	17628	7507	8736.45	49.56	6660.78	26.5	1450	731

From the above table it is clear that around 50% cardamom plantations were affected severely which accounts for 85% of the farmers due to this natural disaster. Apart from these losses, damage of water storage facilities such as wells, water tanks, farm ponds, check dams, drip systems, pump sets, curing /storage houses, etc., may lead to lower the revenue, productivity and export of small cardamom. Being a high cost production and export oriented spice crop, it is recommended to provide financial assistance to the cardamom farmers for replanting and rejuvenate the plantations where the plant / crop losses occurred. It is also suggested to make available quality planting material at subsidised rates. Hence the following programmes are proposed for implementation.

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	For General Category		For SC/ST category	
		Kerala (Rs. Per ha)	Karnataka (Rs. Per ha)	Kerala (Rs. Per ha)	Karnataka (Rs. Per ha)
1	Small Cardamom Replanting	70,000.00	50,000.00	1,57,500.00	1,12,500.00
2	Certified Nursery for small cardamom	2.5/- per sucker	2.5/ per sucker	5.5/- per sucker	5.5/- per sucker
3	Small Cardamom Rejuvenation	32,500.00	23,000.00	32,500.00	23,000.00

2. The area and production of small cardamom in the States of Kerala and Karnataka during the last 3 years are given below:

YEAR	KERALA				KARNATAKA			
	TOTAL AREA (Hect)	YIELDING AREA (Hect)	PRODUCTION (MT)	YIELD (Kg/Hect)	TOTAL AREA (Hect)	YIELDING AREA (Hect)	PRODUCTION (MT)	YIELD (Kg/Ha)
2016-17	39080	31148	15650	502.00	25117	17808	1449	81.00
2017-18	39080	31577	18350	581.00	25135	17628	1450	82.26
2018-19	38882	29364	11535	392.83	25135	14725	690	46.86

Source : Estimate by Spices Board

3. The export of Cardamom(small) from India from 2014-15 to 2018-19 are given below:

Year	Quantity(MT)	Value (Rs.lakhs)
2014-15	3795	32346.75
2015-16	5500	44982.75
2016-17	3850	42150.33
2017-18	5680	60908.15
2018-19 (*)	3320	39052.43

(*) Provisional. Source: DGCI&S Kolkata/Exporters' Returns/DLE from Customs

4. The major markets for Indian Cardamom are Saudi Arabia, UAE, USA and Kuwait which account for around 80% of the total export value of cardamom(small) from the country. The major country-wise export of cardamom(small) from India for the last 3 years are given below

Major countries	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19(*)	
	Qty(Tons)	Value(Rs.lks)	Qty(Tons)	Value(Rs.lks)	Qty(Tons)	Value(Rs.lks)
CARDAMOM(SMALL)						
U.A.E	494.24	5720.39	1084.07	11101.99	1079.00	13337.19
KUWAIT	152.75	1670.83	196.31	2091.48	435.00	5440.81
IRAN	135.00	1466.17	301.62	3468.96	310.00	4116.27
SAUDI ARABIA	2500.00	27469.50	2923.22	32188.81	242.00	2901.13
U.S.A	96.40	929.37	214.44	2309.87	203.00	2776.80
QATAR	29.50	326.51	169.69	1949.87	126.00	1651.67
CANADA	36.80	283.88	76.48	801.45	100.00	1160.77
UK	12.32	163.01	71.17	678.86	85.00	1073.62
JAPAN	57.88	737.33	58.98	848.14	36.00	468.30
TOTAL(INCL.OTHERS)	3850.00	42150.33	5680.00	60908.15	3320.00	39052.43

(*) Provisional. Source: DGCI&S Kolkata/Exporters' Returns/DLE from Customs

5. Spices Board has set up two e-auction centres for cardamom(small) at Puttady in Kerala and Bodinayakanur in Tamil Nadu. 12 E-auctioneers of cardamom(small) are registered with Spices Board. The auctions are conducted daily at the two centres in alternate days for 6 days in a week.

The annual weighted average auction price of cardamom(small) in India for the last 4 years and in the current year are given below. More than 90% of the cardamom production is sold through the E-auctions.

Crop Year (Aug-July)	Wt. Average auction price of cardamom(small) (Rs/Kg)
2014-15	754.03
2015-16	628.64
2016-17	1088.50
2017-18	955.42
2018-19 (*)	1528.56

(*) Provisional. Source : Reports received from licenced cardamom auctioneers

6. Spices Board is implementing the following programmes for increasing the productivity and production of cardamom (small) in the country and there by meeting the export and domestic demand for cardamom under the Integrated Scheme of Export Promotion & Quality Improvement in Spices and Research & Development of Cardamom

- i) Production of quality planting materials of cardamom in the grower's field
- ii) Replanting of old, senile and uneconomic gardens of cardamom
- iii) Irrigation development programme for cardamom.

- iv) Improved curing system for cardamom
- v) Farm Mechanization
- vi) Promoting bee keeping in cardamom plantations
- vii) Supply of GAP Kits to cardamom growers
- viii) Productivity Awards for cardamom growers etc.

.....

To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi
From: Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.U770 regarding special recruitment drive for Scs/Sts.

a) Spices Board is conducting recruitment for SC s/ ST s to various categories based on the vacancy arises as per the reservation roster.

b) The details of number of vacancies to be recruited under the SC/ST categories in Spices Board is given below. Board has not made any recruitment/promotion since February 2017 as per the directions from the Ministry as a part of austerity measure and restructuring of the Board.

Category	Vacancy as per the Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy as per the restructuring proposal submitted to the Ministry		
Total	172	48		
SC s				
ST s				

To : Shri Satish Kumar, Est-III Section, MOC&I, New Delhi,
moc_est3@nic.in

From : Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject : Material for answering Rajya Sabha provisionally Admitted Question Dy.No.S164 for answer on 18.11.2019 asked by Smt Viplove Thakur regarding contract vehicle system in Government Offices

.....
a) Whether it is a fact that various Ministries/ Departments/ subordinate institutions of Government hire vehicles from different travel agencies ?

Ans: Yes, Spices Board is hiring vehicles from private agencies for official purpose on need basis in unavoidable circumstances as the number of departmental vehicles available are very limited.

b) if so, the details of vehicles hired in various Ministries/ Departments/ subordinate institutions during last three years

Ans: Year wise expenditure in hiring vehicles from private agencies are given below:

Year	Expenditure Rs. in lakhs
2016-17	8.03
2017-18	4.98
2018-19	3.83

c) Whether it is also a fact that most of the vehicles hired by Ministries/ Departments/subordinate institutions are not authorised for commercial use, thus causing a huge loss of revenue per month to Government; and

Ans: Vehicles are hired by the Board from registered agencies selected based on open quotation.

d) if so, action Government is considering to prevent such a corruption ?

Ans: To avoid hiring of vehicles from private agencies, a proposal is being submitted to the Government to purchase new vehicles by the Board for the official use.

18th November, 2019

DIRECTOR

Reply to RSPQ Dy.No.S 1617 - Law suits being faced by the Ministry"

The list of pending cases where Spices Board is the respondent in High Courts as per the format prescribed is given below:

Sl. No.	Court	No. of cases	Since when
1	High Court of Kerala	1	2012
		1	2015
		2	2016
		1	2017
		8	2018
		4	2019
2	High Court of Madras	4	2018
		1	2019

DIRECTOR

To : Shri Mukesh Kumar, Under Secretary, Est-II Section, DoC, New Delhi
moc_est2@nic.in

From : Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering provisionally admitted Rajya Sabha Question Dy.No.S 5555 regarding "Consultants working with Ministry" raised by Dr.Vinay P Sahasrabuddhe for answer on 13.12,2019

.....

a) the number of full time consultants and/or advisors are currently working with the Ministry and its various Departments and Autonomous bodies/Institutions and Public Sector Organisation associated with it, as of 31st August, 2019

Ans: Only one full time consultant is engaged by the Board as on 31 August 2019 for conducting internal audit and advice/assist in matters relating to Administration and pre audit of scheme files of Marketing Department. The service of the consultant is provided by Institute of Public Auditors of India (IPAI).

b) since when are they working and the total amount of honorarium/salary/fees being awarded to them, Department/Institution-wise details; and

Ans: Working since February 2014. The total amount paid up to 31st August 2019 is Rs. 21.56 lakh.

c) the mechanism, if any, of assessing their performance periodically ?

Ans: The extension of service of the consultant is done based on assessment of his annual performance.

3rd December, 2019

DIRECTOR

From : Director, Spices Board, Kochi

To : Shri MS Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi.

Subject: Material for answering Rajya Sabha Question No.S1617 by Dr.Vinay P Sahasrabuddhe, MP regarding Law Suits being faced by the Ministry

(a) Spices Board is facing 18 Nos of Law Suits in various High Courts/Supreme Court as on 31st August, 2019. List of pending cases is attached as Annexure 1.

(b) Nil

(c) Majority of the cases are regarding service matters by the employees of the Board.

13th November, 2019

DIRECTOR

The list of pending cases where Spices Board is the respondent in High Courts and Supreme Court as on 31.08.2019 with present status

Sl.No.	Court	Case No.	Petitioner/subject	Status
1	High Court of Kerala	WP(C) No.2053/2012	Jayan Puthiyedath Service – against withholding retirement benefits – fake caste certificate	Pending
2	“	AR 9/2015	D.Aravindhakshan Regarding arbitration	Pending
3	“	WP(C) No.9115/2016	Vandana Haridas Service Seeking appointment	Pending
4	“	WP(C) No.1529/2016	Baby John Service – Counting service of Spices Board in State Govt Services	Pending
6	“	WP(C) No.28385/2017	K K Gopi & others Service - MACP	Pending
7	“	WA 181 of 2018 Appeal against the Judgment in WP(C) No.31798/2015	P.J.Antony - Service against the punishment of compulsory retirement	Pending
8	“	CRL MC No.3605/2018	M.Aramugham Cardmom Growersforever Pvt ltd – against the FIR filed by Spices Board	Pending

9	"	ARB Appeal No.10/2019. Appeal against the District Court Judgment in ARB/OP/548/2015	Creatio Art work designing solutions Arbitration	Pending
10	“	WA 2137 of 2018 against the Judgment in WP(C) No.26740 of 2018 Cardamom auction – powers of Secretary to issue new auctioneer license	Murali & others	Pending
11	“	WP(C) No.28028/2018 WP(C) Nos.15917/2018 & 23023/2018 WP(C) No.14970/2018 WP(C) No.21910/2018 WP(C) No.22857/2018 Challenging the DGFT Notifications on Minimum Import Price of Pepper. Spices Board impeded in the case	Synthite Inds Ltd M/s.Kancor Ingredients Elite Green P Ltd Nishant Export Indian products	Interim order Case Pending
13	“	WA No.1667/2019 WA No.1669/2019 WA No.1670/2019	Writ appeal filed by Spices Board against the Judgment in WP(C)No.24586/2016, 28348/2016 & 38524/2018 filed by Dr.Y.S.Rao & others (service matter)	Pending
14	High Court of Madras Madurai pending	WP(MD) No.14506/2018	Cardamom Growers forever Pvt Ltd – Cardamom auctioneer licence	Interim order Case Pending
15	“	WP(MD) No.17576/2018	Cardamom Growersforever Pvt	Interim order

			Ltd – additional security BG for cardamom auctioneer licence	Case Pending
16	“	WA(MD) No.916/2018	Appeal filed by Spices Board against the judgment in WP(MD) No.9826/2018 – extension of cardamom auctioneer licence to Cardamom Growers forever Pvt Ltd	Pending
17	“	WP(MD) No.21208/2018 3 rd Respondent	The Tamil Nadu Vivasaiyigal Sangasm, Kodaikanal Taluk – Encroachment in the land allotted to Spices Board, RRS, Thadiankudissi	Pending
18	“	WP(MD) No.5609 of 2019 3 rd respondent	A.Arockiathai Permission for transportation of construction materials from Forest Dept	Pending

To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi
From : Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject : Material for answering Rajya Sabha provisionally admitted Question Dy.No.S16 for answer on 21.11.2019 asked by Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur regarding Vacant posts in Central services

.....

a) whether it is a fact that various posts are lying unfilled in the Central Government Services;

Ans: Yes. At present, Spices Board is having 174 posts lying vacant as on 31st October, 2019.

b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise;

Ans: The category wise details are given below:

Category	Sanctioned Strength	No. of Existing posts as on 31/10/2019	No. of vacant posts
Group A	101	80	21
Group B	153	103 (*)	52
Group C	259	158	101
Total	513	341 (*)	174

(*) including two excess posts

**c)the measures taken by Government to fill up vacant posts in Government Services in a time bound manner for various categories; and
d) if so, the details thereof ?**

Ans: c&d) Board has submitted a proposals to Government for staff rationalisation and restructuring to reduce the staff strength from the sanctioned strength of 513 to 379. The approval from the Government is awaited. Once the restructuring proposal is approved by the Government, the vacant posts as per the restructuring proposal will be filled up.

18th November, 2019

DIRECTOR

To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi
From : Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering provisionally admitted Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question Dy.No.U1595 regarding "High expenses on Government Litigation" raised by Hon'ble Member ShriAmar Patnaik for for answer on 28.11,2019

.....

a) the details of the expenditure on lawyers fees and other related expenses incurred by Government on litigation where Government is a party during the last three years; and

Ans: The total expenditure incurred by the Board on lawyers fees during the last three years from 2016-17 to 2018-19 (April to Oct 2019) is Rs.32.06 lakh

b) the details of the expenditure on lawyers fees and other expenses incurred by Government on litigation initiated by it, as well as litigation for disputes inter-se Government Ministries, Departments and Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years;

Ans: i) The expenditure on lawyers fees incurred on litigations initiated by the Board during the last three years is Rs.25,000/-

ii) The expenditure on litigation for disputes inter-se Government Ministries, Departments and Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years is **NIL**.

c) the details of steps taken by Government to reduce expenditure on litigation ?

Ans: Most of the cases are related to service matters of the employees of the Board and cardamom auction related cases. Only one litigation is initiated by the Board during the last three years.

27th November, 2019

DIRECTOR

To
Shri Satish Kumar
Section officer
Estt. III Section
Ministry of Commerce & Industry,
Department of Commerce(Plantation Division)
Udyog Bhavan,

Inputs for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 984 for 20.11.2019 regarding vacant post of group C and D"

(a) Whether the Government is aware that the vacant posts of Group 'C' and 'D' in various Ministries related to SCs and STs are not being filled; and

Ans: Yes. At present there are vacant posts in the Group 'C' category which are to be filled up by SCs and STs, in Spices Board. No Group-D post exists in Spices Board

b) if so, the details thereof, Ministry-wise

Group	Vacant posts for SCs to be filled up by promotion and direct recruitment as on 31.10.2019	Vacant posts for STs to be filled up by promotion and direct recruitment as on 31.10.2019
Group-C	12	7
Group -D	0	0

Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, New Delhi has directed no vacant post should be filled up and no promotion should be made without prior approval of the Department vide letter No.F.5/1004/2015-Plant (Coord) dated 22.02.2017. Hence, no vacant post has been filled up through promotion and direct recruitment since February 2017. Request have been submitted to the Ministry for the permission to fill up the vacant post by promotion. Once it is approved the vacant posts will be filled.

The total sanctioned staff strength of Spices Board is 513 and the existing strength of the Board as on 31.10.2019 is 341. Further a proposal for reduction of staff strength has been submitted to the Ministry for reducing the sanctioned staff strength to 379 as per the direction of the Ministry to strive towards a lean structure and also to reduce manpower, for approval. Once it is approved the sanctioned strength will be reduced to 379 and corresponding vacancies also will be reduced accordingly.

DIRECTOR

To
Shri Satish Kumar
Section officer
Estt. III Section
Ministry of Commerce & Industry,
Department of Commerce(Plantation Division)
Udyog Bhavan,

Inputs for Rajya Sabha Prov. admitted S/Unstarred Question No. 698 for 21.11.2019 regarding backlog vacancies for SCs/STs"

(a) the number of posts still lying vacant in various departments of the Central Government, cadre wise;

Details of vacancies available for filling up by promotion and direct recruitment in Spices Board as on 31.10.2019 is given below:

Category	Sanctioned strength	Existing strength	Vacancies	Reserved for Scs	Reserved for STs
Group-A	101	80	21	2	1
Group-B	153	103	52	7	0
Group-C	259	158	101	12	7
Total	513	341	174	21	8

The total sanctioned staff strength of Spices Board is 513 and the existing strength of the Board as on 31.10.2019 is 341. Further a proposal for reduction of staff strength has been submitted to the Ministry for reducing the sanctioned staff strength to 379 as per the direction of the Ministry to strive towards a lean structure and also to reduce manpower, for approval. Once it is approved the sanctioned strength will be reduced to 379 and corresponding vacancies also will be reduced accordingly.

b)&c) whether Government has any proposal for filling backlog vacancies of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other reserved categories; and if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to fill up these vacancies?

Ans: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, New Delhi has directed no vacant post should be filled up and no promotion should be made without prior approval of the Department vide letter No.F.5/1004/2015-Plant (Coord) dated 22.02.2017. Hence, no vacant post has been filled up through promotion and direct recruitment since February 2017. Requests have been submitted to the Ministry for the permission to fill up the vacant posts by promotion and direct recruitment. Once it is approved the vacant posts will be filled.

DIRECTOR

To : Shri M S Banerjee, Under Secretary, MOC&I, New Delhi

From: Director, Spices Board, Kochi

Subject: Material for answering LS Starred Qn. No.953 for 20.11.2019 regarding damages to Coffee and Spices Plantations

.....

(a) Whether any assessment of damage caused to coffee and spices plantations in the state of Karnataka and Kerala has been made in view of heavy rains and flood in the regions;

Ans: Yes. Spices Board had made assessment of the damage caused to small cardamom plantations in the states of Karnataka & Kerala in view of heavy rains and floods in these regions during August 2018. Regarding spice plantations other than cardamom, the responsibility is vested with the State Agri/Horti Department and hence the details are available with the State Government.

During 2019 Board has not made any specific study with regard to the flood affected in the cardamom plantations in Kerala as no major crop loss has been reported from the region. However the as per the directions from the State Government of Karnataka, the Board had assisted the State Government in the assessment of the damage caused to the cardamom plantations due to heavy rains in the Coorg district. As per the report about 1800 Ha of cardamom plantations have been affected with a crop loss of more than 33%. The report has been submitted to the State Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Ans: The report on assessment of damage caused to Cardamom Plantations in the States of Kerala and Karnataka is attached as Annex-1. With regard to the year 2018. With regard to assessment made during 2019, details are attached as per Annex-2

(c) Whether the Government intends to provide some incentives and relief to coffee and spices growers to help them establish their plantation;

Ans: Yes

(d) if so the details thereof;

Ans: Government has approved the proposal submitted by the Spices Board for undertaking re-plantation and production of quality planting materials for small cardamom in the flood affected Districts of Kerala and Karnataka at a total budget allocation of Rs.17.07 crore. The programme is being implemented during the on-going Medium Term Framework (MTF) period of 2018-19 and 2019-20. Subsequently, the Govt. Of India has approved the programme for Rejuvenation of flood affected cardamom plantations with an allocation of Rs.8.80 Crore in addition to the above two programmes. These programmes are implemented within the existing budgetary provisions of the Board. As per the approval, the Board started implementing the Re plantation and production of planting material during 2018-19 which is being continued during 2019-20. In the case of rejuvenation scheme, since the approval was received during the current financial year, the programme is being implemented in the States of Kerala and Karnataka during 2019-20.

The approved schemes as above for the year 2018 will be continued in 2019-2020 to take care of the cardamom plantations affected during 2019.

Dated 16.11.2019

DIRECTOR