

**The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey):** (a) to (c). With a view to rationalising the working of the Coal Board and the Coal Controller's Organisation, it is proposed to merge the two, so as to avoid over-lapping of functions, to ensure better co-ordination of work and to give due emphasis to developmental aspect apart from the regulatory functions. The proposal is under consideration of Government.

#### **Export Duty on Tea**

\*819. **Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Association of India has approached Government for the immediate reduction of the export duty on tea from Rs. 2 to Rs. 1.50 per kg. on the ground of decline of exports; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No reduction is possible. But conversion to ad valorem duty can be considered, if specific proposals are made.

#### **Sales Tax on Imported Stores**

\*820. **Shri Himatsingka:  
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**

Will the Minister of Supply, Technical Development and Materials Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of a recent Supreme Court Judgement that sales-tax on imported stores is not leviable, the D.G.S.&D. is recovering from the Suppliers sales-tax, already paid to them on past bills; and

(b) in view of the fact that the suppliers have already deposited the sales-tax with the State Governments, what steps are being taken by the Central Government to alleviate the difficulties faced by the suppliers?

**The Minister of Supply, Technical Development and Materials Planning (Shri Raghuramaiah):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The legal position is being examined and such further action as may be necessary will be taken on receipt of the advice from the Ministry of Law.

#### **Imported Newsprint with S.T.C.**

\*821. **Shri Vasudevan Nair:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the stock position of imported newsprint with the S.T.C. at the time of devaluation;

(b) whether it is a fact that S.T.C. is charging post-devaluation price for these stocks also;

(c) whether Government have received any representations against this from the newspapers; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7003/66].

#### **Demand of Special Trains between Ghaziabad-Shahdara and Delhi**

\*822. **Shri Panna Lal:  
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
Shri Brij Basi Lal:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Passengers Welfare Association demanded that two special trains should be run between Ghaziabad-Shahdara and Delhi for the benefits