

(b) The purpose of such an approach is to establish whether it appears likely that essential British and Commonwealth interests could be safeguarded if Britain joins the EEC. The Government of India are keeping themselves informed of developments in the matter and will take into account the course of consultations with Commonwealth Governments which the British Government would be undertaking. The precise nature and the extent of the effects on India's foreign trade will obviously depend on the terms and conditions of Britain's accession to the ECM and the safeguards that would be provided to the trade interests of other Commonwealth countries.

Tea Plantations in Kangra

*660. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Kangra Tea Planters Supply and Marketing Industrial Cooperative Society Ltd. has represented to Government that Kangra Valley teas be exempted from the purview of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, till such time as, after proper analysis, a separate standard is fixed for those teas;

(b) whether the said representation has been considered; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Separate standards cannot be prescribed in different areas because it will not be possible to identify the garden of origin of the tea at the time it reaches the consumer. The problem is, therefore, of finding a suitable specification for all teas grown in India including those in Kangra, keeping in view the reputation which Indian tea has earned for its quality. The matter is being considered by the Central Committee of Food Standards.

Halt at Telwa Bazar on Eastern Railway

2877. **Shri Lakhan Das:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a fresh representation about having a halt at Telwa Bazar, near Simultala, Eastern Railway (Main Line) on at least an experimental basis; and

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

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Republic Forge

2878. **Shri Madhu Limaye:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Republic Forge is a Teja concern or that he is associated with it;

(b) whether any irregularities/malpractices in the working of this company have come to light recently;

(c) if so, their nature; and

(d) the remedial action, if any, planned to protect the public interests; including the interests of the shareholders?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) Dr. Dharma Teja was associated with this Company as Chairman from 20-4-63 to 3-4-66.

(b) and (c). Yes. The irregularities reported relate to the allotment of some shares (i) before receipt of the stipulated payments and (ii) without the prior permission of the Reserve Bank of India as required under the Foreign Exchange Regulations.

(d) No capital of this company has been issued to the public so far. It is understood that the company is pre-