NORTH EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

*790. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the whole of the North East Frontier Agency is self-sufficient in food or not;

(b) if not, what are the deficient areas and the amount of deficiency in food;

(c) how and wherefrom food is procured to meet the deficiency; and

(d) the various means of transport used for transportation of the food so procured?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) The North East Frontier Agency as a whole is not normally deficient in food. Certain inaccessible areas become deficient when communications are disrupted.

(b) The area and the amount vary from time to time and are not fixed.

(c) The deficiency of food felt in any particular area is met partly by the hill people themselves from contiguous surplus areas both in the Agency itself and in the plains of the Assam State. Food supplies are also procured by the Agency Administration through the Assam Government, if necessary.

(d) Food supplies are carried either by mules where mule-tracks exist or by porters. They are also transported by air to otherwise inaccessible areas.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know, Sir, if the Government maintain statistics of the actual production and requirements of food in the North-East Frontier Agency?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Sir, the annual requirements of food cannot be ascertained beforehand but during the post-war period, it was found necessary to import 3,300 tons of foodstuff a year.

Shri Rishang Keishing: What I want to know is whether there is any machinery by means of which the Government can find out the annual requirements, the production and deficit of foodstuffs in the North-East Frontier Agency?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Sir, for the present it is not possible to obtain the actual statistics of land and crops in the North-Eastern Frontier Agency but approximately 15 per cent. of the total administered areas may be assessed as deficit.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We do get some figures; of course, we try to assess. But the administration is not adequately developed in all those areas for getting any exact statistics. But we are trying to develop it in that way so as to get as accurate information as possible.

Shri Amjad Ali: Is it a fact that air dropping of foodstuffs is still continuing in the North-East Frontier Agency?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Yes, Sir, it is a fact.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether the Government has taken into consideration the feasibility of raising food crops in the North-East Frontier Agency and, if so, what are the various measures undertaken so far?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think the hon. Member expects me to answer the question. Of course, Government is always considering the feasibility, but I cannot detail all the measures taken by the farmers or by the Government for that purpose.

EXPORT DUTY ON GOODS FROM NEPAL

*791. **Shri H. S. Prasad:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Nepal Government charge export duty on the commodities that come to India from Nepal?

(b) whether Government charge export duty on the commodities that go to Nepal from India; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons for it?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The existing export duties in the Second Schedule to the Indian Customs Tariff are leviable on exports to all foreign destinations, but in view of the specially friendly relations which now exist between India and Nepal, and also because of the absence of administrative arrangements on the Indo-Nepal border, these duties are, in actual practice, not being collected.

DEPUTATION OF RUBBER INTERESTS

*797. **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a deputation of rubber interests met the Minister recently; and