

(a) the present status of Lok Adalats and Legal aid Programmes in the country;

(b) the number of cases disposed of through Lok Adalats during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid through Lok Adalats, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The Lok Adalats and Legal Aid Programmes have been provided a statutory base with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended w.e.f. 9.11.1995.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from the concerned State Legal Aid & Advice Boards and would be placed on the Table of the House when received.

#### Trade With Russia

6699. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether trade target set between India and Russia has been achieved during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the main reasons for decline in the trade;

(c) the details of products which have witnessed a fall in exports from India; and

(d) the steps being taken to boost the trade with Russia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) During 1995-96, the target of trade turnover of Rs. 6000 crores was not only attained but surpassed with a total trade turnover of Rs. 6356 crores. During the first 11 months of 1996-97. Indo-Russian trade turnover has reached a level of Rs. 4487 crores which is 22.6% lower than the trade turnover during the corresponding period of previous year i.e. April-February, 1995-96. This decline has taken place mainly because of fall in exports of cashew and tea from India and fall in the imports of fertilizers, iron and steel and machinery from Russia. The fall in the export of cashew from India to Russia from Rs. 260.3 crores during April-February 1995-96 to Rs. 5.7 crores during April-February, 1996-97 has taken place because of effective measures taken by the Government to prevent switch of cashew which was earlier reported to have been largely diverted to third country destinations. The fall in tea

exports from Rs. 446.3 crores during April-February, 1995-96 to Rs. 179.1 crores during April-February 1996-97 can largely be attributed to the lower off take of tea by the Russian importers under the debt repayment mechanism caused by undue delay in rupee allocation for import of tea into Russia.

The Government has initiated effective measures for boosting Indo-Russian trade. These measures include encouraging consignment sales and opening of warehouses, broadbasing the basket of tradable goods, signing of Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs, impressing upon Russian Federation for early allocation of rupee funds, opening of Indian banks, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, enhancing the trade in the area of pharmaceuticals reduction of value addition norms from 100% to 75% in respect of certain hi-tech items including personal computers for export to Russia under the debt repayment route etc.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, many people have died because of hunger in Orissa . . . (Interruptions) Firstly, issue of Orissa to be taken up . . . (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that lakhs of people are starving and hundreds of people have died because of starvation . . . (Interruptions). We should not be so insensitive towards human beings . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, hundreds and thousands of people are dying because of starvation. Large number of cattles have also died there . . . (Interruptions). The situation there is very horrible. The Government of Orissa is indifferent to such situation there . . . (Interruptions). I would like to request you to kindly permit me to raise the issue of Orissa . . . (Interruptions).

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, lakhs of people are dying because of starvation there . . . (Interruptions).

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, drinking water is also not there. In such a situation large numbers of cattles are dying . . . (Interruptions) People are not getting