

(c) the steps Government are taking to accelerate the trend further?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). Firm figures for the exports during the first quarter of 1967-68 i.e. April to June, 1967, are not yet available. A comparative statement will be laid on the Table of the House when these are finalised.

(c) Steps are being taken to increase exports by encouraging an increase in production of exportable products. Main features of necessary assistance are: cash assistance for certain selected export products, import replenishment under the new import policy for registered exporters, priority allotment of scarce indigenous raw materials through "Green Form" supply of iron and steel at international prices to fabricators of engineering goods for export, and special allocation of foreign exchange for import of capital goods by export-oriented industries. Further measures proposed include *inter alia*, reduction/readjustment of export duties in some cases, restraint on domestic consumption through levy/adjustment of excise duties and more intensive marketing operations.

Export of Tea

**7972. Shri S. S. Kothari;
Shri Sri Chand Goel:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a considerable gap in the prices realised by the Indian tea exporters and those paid by the consumers in U.K. and other foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a Tea Marketing Corporation which would blend, export and market the tea in foreign countries in bulk and in packets; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure better price realisation of tea exported?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) It is a fact that there is a considerable gap between the wholesale price of bulk teas exported from India and the retail prices of blended teas actually paid by consumers in the U.K. or other foreign countries. A substantial part of this difference is obviously due to costs of blending teas of different qualities and from different countries of origin, distribution, packing, advertising and other retailing expenses as well as the import duties or other consumption taxes levied in the respective countries.

(b) and (c). While Government are naturally interested in developing to the extent practicable, the export of teas in the form of blended and packed teas, the setting up of a Tea Marketing Corporation or other measures designed to secure a higher price realisation for our teas exported, would require a careful examination. It is with this end in view that the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade had organised a Tea Seminar at Calcutta and the various proposals emanating as a result of these discussions, are under Government's consideration.

Assault on Ticket Collectors at Mathura Station

**7973. Shri Bal Raj Madhok;
Shri A. B. Vajpayee;
Shri Yajna Datt Sharma;
Shri Beni Shanker Sharma;
Shri R. S. Vidyarthi;
Shri Suraj Bhan;
Shri N. S. Sharma;
Shri J. B. Singh;
Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan;
Shri George Fernandes;
Shri J. H. Patel;
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Ticket Collectors were assaulted on the 29th May, 1967 at Mathura Junction when they objected to illegal hawking and selling of eatables by the unauthorised catering vendors;