

**Export of Indian Tea to Hard Currency Areas**

6281. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of Indian tea to hard-currency areas has been on the decline during the past three years;

(b) if so, the comparative figures for each of these years;

(c) the reasons for this decline; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to regain its lost position in these markets?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Exports of tea to free currency areas have been on decline during the past three years as per details given below:—

| Countries  | (In th. kgs.)  |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | 1970           | 1971           | 1972           |
| U.K. . . . .   | 96,619         | 70,234         | 57,213         |
| Ireland . . . . .                                    | 4,841          | 5,649          | 5,957          |
| West Germany . . . . .                               | 3,255          | 3,535          | 5,168          |
| U.S.A. . . . .                                       | 7,116          | 9,046          | 7,070          |
| Canada . . . . .                                     | 3,280          | 3,845          | 2,883          |
| Australia . . . . .                                  | 3,688          | 3,062          | 3,150          |
| New Zealand . . . . .                                | 285            | 313            | 337            |
| Other free-currency countries . . . . .              | 12,833         | 16,688         | 26,509         |
| <b>Total under free-currency countries . . . . .</b> | <b>131,917</b> | <b>112,372</b> | <b>108,287</b> |

(c) Some of the reasons for decline in exports to free currency are—

(i) pressure of buying in Indian auctions by bi-lateral trade countries, (ii) pressure of rising domestic market, (iii) increasing competition from other producing countries particularly Ceylon, African countries, Argentina and Indonesia which can offer teas at comparatively cheaper prices.

(d) In order to boost tea trade to free currency areas, Government have *inter-alia* taken the following steps:—

(1) Abolition of export duty on tea with effect from 1st March, 1970;

(2) Rebate of excise duty at the point of export varying with price with effect from 15th April, 1970;

(3) Promotional activities by the Tea Board's offices established in London, New York, Brussels, and Sydney to create greater possibility for export of Indian tea to various traditional and new markets.

(4) Promotion of special packs of Indian tea in selected markets abroad with the cooperation of the local blenders/packers;

- (5) Advertisement through appropriate media of publicity in countries abroad;
- (6) Participation in Trade Fairs and exhibitions;
- (7) Exchange visits of traders and experts to promote the interest of tea;
- (8) Setting up of a Tea Trading Corporation in the Public Sector for export of packeted and blended teas; and
- (9) Participation in Generic Promotion along with other tea producing countries and local tea trade in importing countries to increase consumption of Tea as a beverage vis-a-vis other soft drinks.

**Development of Village Industries in Tripura**

6282. SHRI DASARATHA DEB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was made to find out prospects for developing village industries in Tripura;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) what are the industries proposed to be developed in the rural areas of Tripura?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Survey revealed scope for developing Handlooms, Forest based village Industries, Processing of Cereals and pulses, Ghani Oil, Leather, Pottery, Cottage Match, Gur and Khand-sari, and Hand-made Paper Industries.

(c) Khadi & Village Industries Commission organised departmental activities from 1963-64. Presently Khadi work is being carried on by three institutions, 170 improved oil

ghanis were installed. 3255 beehives were distributed among 747 villages. Seven Village Pottery Co-operative Societies and two Fibre Units are functioning. In all, 54 co-operatives of artisans were organised. Annual developmental programmes for Khadi & Village Industries are formulated and implemented through Tripura State Khadi & Village Industries Board and directly aided institutions.

न्यूनतम और अधिकतम वेतन का अनुपात क्या कर 1 : 10 करना

6283. श्री चिरंजीव झा. क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार न्यूनतम और अधिकतम वेतन का अनुपात क्या कर 1 : 10 करने का है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस दिशा में कब तक कदम उठाये जाने की सम्भावना है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री क० आर० गणेश) : (क) से (ग). तृतीय वेतन आयोग की, संशोधित वेतन ढाँचे के बारे में सिफारिश केन्द्रीय सरकारी कर्मचारियों के लिये अभी हाल ही में मिली हैं और आयोग द्वारा प्रस्तावित न्यूनतम तथा अधिकतम वेतन सम्बन्धी सिफारिशों भी उनमें शामिल हैं, और इनकी जांच की जा रही है। इन सिफारिशों से उत्पन्न होने वाले असमानता-अनुपातों के सम्बन्ध में सही स्थिति का पता, विभिन्न सिफारिशों पर सरकार द्वारा निर्णय लिये जाने के बाद ही चल सकेगा।