

Cashew Industry in Kerala

1790. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the Cashew Industry in Kerala thousands of employees have been thrown out of employment due to non-availability of raw cashew;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the extent to which the measures taken by Government to solve the problem have succeeded; and

(d) to what extent the Centre has helped the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Cashew Industry in Kerala has been facing difficulties on account of shortage of imported cashewnuts during the current year.

(b) Imports from Tanzania and Mozambique could not be made in time due to initial difficulties arising out of short crops in these countries and also due to a wide disparity in the price demanded and the prices considered economic by the Cashew Corporation of India. Agreements have now been concluded both with Tanzania and Mozambique for imports out of the last crop.

(c) Supply of imported nuts out of the contracted quantity of about 54,000 tonnes from Tanzania and Mozambique is expected to begin soon; thereby relieving the situation.

(d) The Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation will also get its due share of imported nuts in accordance with Government policy.

Formation of International Tea Promotion Association

1791. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at U.N.C.T.A.D. Conference measures to ensure stable and reasonable prices for tea exports were discussed at an informal ministerial level meeting of tea producing and consuming nations;

(b) whether discussions were also held about proposals for the setting up of an International Tea Promotion Association;

(c) whether the International Tea Promotion Association has been set up; and

(d) if so, the form and shape of the Association?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) During UNCTAD-IV at Nairobi, Commerce Minister held informal consultations with representatives of major tea producing and consuming countries to explore possible ways and means of dealing with the problems faced by tea exporting countries, including those of securing stable and reasonable prices.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Instructions to Public Sector Undertakings to Dissociate from Chambers of Commerce and Industry

1792. SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Public Enterprises Instructed Public sector undertakings to dissociate themselves from the Chambers of Commerce and Industry; and

(b) whether Government have noticed from Directory of Members of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber 1974 and 1975 editions that several central public undertakings, nationalised banks and public undertakings of Haryana and Punjab continue to be associated with that lobby of private sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have issued instructions to Public Undertakings not become members of organisations like Chambers of Commerce and other non-professional bodies.

(b) Following the issue of the above instructions public sector Corporations and Banks have not renewed their membership of the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. However, the Directory of Chamber of Commerce still contains the names of those public sector corporations and banks who have not renewed their membership and therefore ceased to be associated with the Chamber. There are some other public sector companies who are still members by virtue of the subscription paid by them earlier. They have informed that they will not renew their membership. Some of these companies are those who became Government companies recently like the Bharat Refineries Ltd and the Central Cottage Industries Corporation. Such of those companies who are still members will not renew their membership and in the meantime will not associate themselves with the activities of the Chamber of Commerce.

Case Filed against Shrimati Vijaya Raje Scindia of Gwalior

1793, SHRI B S BHAURA. Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case has been filed against Shrimati Vijaya Raje Scindia, former ruler of Gwalior State by the Collector of Central Excise; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A complaint has been filed in the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Gwalior against Shrimati Vijaya Raje Scindia, under section 135 of the Customs Act read with Rule 127 of the Defence and Internal Security of India Rules, 1971 for being in possession and control of primary gold given the shape of 'Karas' weighing 49.6 Kgs., in contravention of section 11 of the Customs Act read with section 111 (d) and section 135 of the said Act and also under Rule 127(1) read with Rule 127(2)(b) of the Defence and Internal Security of India Rules, 1971. The aforesaid quantity of primary gold was recovered by the Income-tax authorities on their search of Jai Vilas Palace, Gwalior, and was seized under the Customs Act as well as Gold Control Act.

Operation of Airbus on Srinagar Route

1794 SHRI SYED AHMED AGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government propose to operate Airbus on Srinagar air route by the end of next year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Indian Airlines have not found it feasible to operate the airbus to Srinagar for the present. However, the Corporation will consider introduction of this aircraft on the Srinagar route after suitable airport facilities become available at Srinagar.