

that as a result of the instructions issued interpreting the law regarding valuation, the cigarette industry may also have derived some benefit, in common with other industries. It is not possible to quantify the precise extent of the benefit.

Amount accrued on account of Compulsory Deposit Scheme

885. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BGSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) amount accrued on account of Compulsory Deposit Scheme out of payments made by employees and workers; and

(b) amount accrued on account of Compulsory Deposit Scheme out of payment made by employers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The gross amount of compulsory deposits made by employees of Central and State Governments, local authorities and of private and public sector units under the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Act, 1974 upto 3rd June, 1977, was Rs. 1764.68 crores.

(b) Employers do not make any payment under Compulsory Deposit Scheme; they only remit to the nominated authorities under the Act the amounts deducted towards compulsory deposits from the emoluments disbursed to their employees.

Validity of L.I.C. (Modification and Settlement) Act, 1976

886. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India LIC Employees Federation has challenged

the validity of the LIC of India (Modification and Settlement) Act, 1976 in the Supreme Court;

(b) whether the Court after hearing both sides, suggested that the parties might negotiate and come to settlement;

(c) whether Government have come to any settlement with the LIC employees as suggested by the Court;

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). No settlement has been reached so far. The views of the Government have already been conveyed to the Supreme Court.

Visit of the Chairman of the Coffee Board to Kerala

887. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Coffee Board had recently visited Wynad in Kerala and had discussions with coffee-growers and others on the various problems of coffee cultivation, marketing and other matters;

(b) if so, the results of his visit;

(c) whether steps have already been taken to fulfil the various promises and assurances he had made in various conferences; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a). Yes, Sir.

(b) Result of the discussions are summarised, as under:—

(1) A comprehensive approach involving chemical and biological methods for controlling mealy bug infestation in the coffee plantations, provision of necessary financial assistance to the growers for the purchase of appropriate inputs and adoption of an area approach in solving the problems has been evolved.

(2) Steps have been taken to acquire necessary area for starting a Robusta Research Station in Wynad for evolving a package of practices necessary for increasing the productivity of Robusta Coffee in Wynad.

(3) A Developmental Plan for providing need-based credit for every small grower having coffee registration certificate has been worked out. Necessary finances from the Plan Funds have been allocated for this purpose.

(4) Coffee Board has posted Special Staff to identify all registered estates, collect applications for registration and for rendering assistance in getting Registration Certificates from the Revenue Authorities of the Government of Kerala.

(5) Rationalising the levy of transport charges by the collection depots and opening more collection depots in the interior areas is being examined by the Board.

(c) Yes, please. Action has already been initiated to implement the decisions taken on the above matters.

(d) 1. Steps have been taken to map the areas infested with mealy-bug in Wynad and to start integrated control measures in these areas. Special staff have already been posted to attend to this.

2. Proposal for starting Regional Robusta Research Station have been cleared by the Government of India and necessary funds have been provided for this purpose. Planting of some of the area acquired for the Research Station would be carried out this year for experimental purposes. Posting of necessary scientific staff for the Station is being attended to.

3. Development activities of the Board have been geared to provide need-based credit to the small growers of coffee. Liberalisation of some of the Developmental Loan procedures for granting loan assistance will be done to make available these loans to most of the growers having coffee registration certificates. Steps have already been taken to disburse loans to growers in their respective regions through decentralisation of developmental functions.

4. Applications from all the un-registered estates have been collected from the growers and filed with the revenue authorities for future action. Special staff has been posted for assisting growers in getting the registration certificates.

Rise in Big Prices of Tea

888. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) how Government propose to control the tea prices which are soaring and have gone up by more than 100 per cent since March, 1976; and

(b) whether his suggestions to tea industrialists to bring down tea prices at home by cutting down the exports have been implemented?