

post of Upper Division Clerks in the Central Government offices. While no general orders have been issued in this regard, each such case of 'B' Grade Clerk working in other Central Government Departments/offices, for according similar benefit is considered on merits on reference from concerned Departments/offices. 5 Copies of the judgement delivered by Bombay High Court in Writ petition No. 890 of 1979 have been placed in the Parliament Library.

Supply of Coal and Electricity to Dooars Tea Gardens

5266. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of electricity and coal in the Dooars Tea Gardens is affecting the production of superior quality of tea.

(b) whether it is also a fact that railway is not cooperating as it should have done to supply the required coal to the tea gardens in the belt;

(c) whether it is also a fact that low quality of coal is supplied to the tea gardens in spite of a number of representations received for supply of better quality coal which is needed for the modern firing technologies; and

(d) steps being taken to meet the demands of the Dooars Tea Gardens ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) to (d) Representations have been received from tea industry in North Bengal regarding inadequate supply of electricity and required grade of coal to tea estates in the region. Tea Board has been in constant touch with the concerned agencies to resolve the issues.

Loss of Revenue Due to Piracy of Music Cassettes

5267. Dr. B. L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the piracy

of music cassettes has now reached alarming proportions as a result of which the national Exchequer has suffered an estimated loss of Rs. 80 crores or so; and

(b) if so, the effective steps which Government propose to take in the matter and prevent the revenue loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Reports of piracy of music cassettes have come to the Government's notice. The central excise duty on sound recorded cassette tapes was wholly exempted from the 1st March, 1984. Consequently, there could be no revenue loss on this account;

(b) in order to check piracy of music cassettes, the Copyright Act, 1957 was amended by Copyright Amendment Act, 1984, which came into force from 8th October, 1984, so as to increase the punishment for copyright infringement and thus have a deterrent effect on the incidence of such malpractices. However, copy right is a propriety right and it is for the owners of the copyright to institute civil and criminal proceedings in the appropriate court of law for enforcing their rights.

Per Capita Consumption of Foodgrains

5268. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita consumption of foodgrains in the country during 1963, 1984, and 1985 among the rural poor;

(b) whether the consumption has been rising and if not the factors responsible therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to raise the intake and abolish starvation deaths ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) All-India per capita net availability of