

(b) whether he had expressed concern at this at a meeting of the North India Cotton Textile Mills' Association on February 5, 1986;

(c) whether blended fabrics also are not cheaper despite duty reductions on inputs; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to force the mills to reduce prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d). In regard to the relief given to the textile industry during the year 1985-86, the NTC mills manufacturing low price fabrics under the 'Sulabh Cloth Scheme' have passed on the benefits of duty concessions to the consumers. The duty relief have also had an impact on prices of certain textile items and the price situation of textiles have generally been satisfactory during the year 1985-86. However, in certain areas, the benefits have reportedly not been passed on in entirety to the consumers. Government has taken note of this in 1986 budget, the relief given earlier to the yarn producers has been reduced by about 50%. Further steps will depend on the response of the industry to the concessions given.

[*Translation*]

Disposal of Contraband Narcotics Seized

2911. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the narcotics seized by the Customs authorities is destroyed completely;

(b) if so, the procedure laid down for the purpose;

(c) whether complaints have been received to the effect that some quantity out of the narcotics meant for destruction is pilfered beforehand; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Narcotic drugs other than opium confiscated

by the Customs authorities are generally destroyed. Confiscated Opium is sent to Government Opium Factory, Ghazipur for processing and disposal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Peon Arrested for Defrauding SBI Branch of Lucknow

2912. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that a peon of the State Bank of India Branch of Lucknow has been arrested for defrauding the bank to the tune of Rs. 32 lakhs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other employees of the said bank have also been arrested; and

(d) If not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that a fraud involving Rs. 31.43 lakhs has been committed in their Clearing House operations at Lucknow. An F.I.R. was lodged by SBI with the Central Bureau of Investigation and CBI has arrested one Messenger working at the Transport Nagar (Lucknow) Branch of SBI. The bank has placed the Messenger under suspension.

(c) and (d). The bank has reported that no other employee of the bank had been arrested since the CBI's investigations have not revealed involvement of other employees so far.

[*Translation*]

Export of Tea

2913. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries to which

tea was exported during 1985-86 and the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby;

(b) whether this export was less or more as compared to that of the previous years; and

(c) the names of the countries with which India had to face stiff competition in the export of tea with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (c). Indian tea is exported to a large number of countries all over the world. Major Importers of tea from India are USSR, U.K., ARE, Iran and Iraq. Exports of tea during the past four years have been as under :—

Year	Exports	
	Qty.(M.Kgs)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1982	189.9	355.85
1983	208.5	516.82
1984	217.0	740.45
1985	222.4	711.90
(Estimated)		

Indian tea has to compete with exports from other major tea exporting like Kenya, Sri Lanka and China.

[English]

All India survey Report on Marketing Aspects of Hides and Skins

2914. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All-India Survey of the volume, quality of production and marketing aspects of hides and skins by the Central Leather Research Institute has been completed;

(b) if so, the principal features of this survey report indicating action taken there on; and

(c) The names of economists statisticians and technologists and veterinary scientists who have conducted this survey ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Names of economists, statisticians, technologists and veterinary scientists associated with the survey are given in the statement given below.

Statement

Names of economists, statisticians, technologists and veterinary scientists associated with the All India Survey of Raw Hides and Skins being conducted by the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras have been reported as under :

ECONOMISTS :

1. Shri K. Seshagiri Rao
2. Shri S. Chellappa
3. Shri K. Sarjuna Rao
4. Shri A. Subbarama Naidu
5. Shri C. Pulinda Rao
6. Shri D. Chandra Mouli
7. Shri R. Rajendran
8. Smt J. Lakshmisiva Jyothi

STATISTICIANS :

1. Shri B. Krishnama Naidu
2. Shri J. S. L. Vasudevan

VETERINARY SCIENTISTS :

1. Shri Mahendra Kumar
2. Shri N. Muralidara Rao

SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS :

1. Dr G. Thyagrajan
2. Shri T. S. Ranganathan
3. Dr. K. S. Jayaraman