

between Indian and Soviet trading and industrial enterprises and export associations are also being encouraged.

Export Proposals of Tea Industry

7960. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Industry had submitted proposals to Union Government for long term tea export strategy in June, 1986, and

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Tea Industry and how many of them have been implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Representations / suggestions have been received from various Tea Traders Associations from time to time for increasing exports of tea. Suggestions made by the Tea Trade in the recent past for increasing exports include request for a long term policy governing exports of tea, need to encourage higher production of quality tea, better credit facilities to exporters, concessional rates of import duty on packaging equipment, permission to utilise foreign exchange earnings for promotional activities abroad, providing funds on liberal terms for packaging factories, change in definition of tea bags so as to include bags upto 30 grams of tea, exemption on exports of tea packed between 1 Kg. and 21 kgs. etc. To encourage higher production of quality tea a number of developmental schemes are in operation which are modified from time to time to suit the requirements. The Tea Board has introduced an interest free loan scheme for the purchase of tea packaging machinery. Exports of packet teas of upto 20 kgs. of weight are already exempted from excise duty. There is no ban on export of tea bags in excess of 20 grams in weight and therefore no change in definition of tea bags is required. In addition, measures taken

in the recent past to increase exports of tea include, higher cash compensatory support on value-added teas, excise rebate of 50 paise per kilogram on export of bulk tea, full rebate of excise duty on exports of packet teas, exemption of excise duty on tea bags, exemption of customs duty on filter paper used in manufacture of tea bags etc.

Export of Foodgrains

7961. SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural products exported during 1986-87 and the value thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that FICCI has requested Government to allot land on a large scale to the exporters in order to increase the export of foodgrains and other agricultural commodities by keeping them safe from weather; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The main agricultural products exported during 1986-87 were cereals including wheat and basmati rice, tobacco, spices, cashew kernels, HPS groundnut, oil cakes, shellac, processed foods, meat and meat products and fresh fruits and vegetables. As per provisional estimates, the exports for the period April '86 to Feb. '87 for which estimates are available was of the order of approximately Rs. 1500 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The land ceiling laws of the State do not provide for any special dispensation for allotment of large tracts of land to exporters. Allotment of land is made within the overall Government policy of giving preference to the landless and weaker sections of society.