

(b) Textiles, garments, electronic goods viz V.C.Rs, V.C.Ps, watches, cameras, audio and video cassettes and miscellaneous consumer goods, etc. were sold through the Retail Shop. Revenue earned during the last six months, i.e. from 1.1.89 to 30.6.89 by sale through the Retail Shop is Rs. 49,82,885.00/-.

(c) and (d). The strength of the staff working in the Retail Shop has been increased. Further, some space has been added and the display of goods for sale has been improved.

### Tea Plantation Industry in Kerala

649. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Planters Association of Southern India and the Association of Planters of Kerala have given a master plan for rehabilitation of the tea plantation industry in Kerala;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to help the tea industry in general and Kerala in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Master Plan for rehabilitation of the tea plantation industry in Kerala broadly envisages a district-wise action plan for increasing production with an investment of Rs. 235 crores during the next ten years to a level of 100 M.kgs by the turn of the century as against the present level of 56.9 M.kgs, with concerted efforts by all agencies like Central Government, State Government, Tea Board, Financial Institutions, etc.

(c) All the tea gardens in the country irrespective of size are eligible to avail of the benefits of the various on-going develop-

mental schemes under which Tea Board provides financial assistance in the form of loan and subsidy. Considering the special circumstances certain parts of Idukki and Wyanad districts of Kerala have been declared as non-traditional areas for purposes of the New Tea Units Financing Scheme for non-traditional areas of the Board. This scheme provides for financial assistance by way of long-term loan and subsidy for opening New tea gardens on a commercial scale. Special assistance is also being provided for setting up of a tea nursery and a tea factory in Manantody Taluk for tribals.

[Translation]

### New Railway Lines in Bihar

650. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to construct new railway lines in Bihar has been sent to Union Government by Government of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decisions taken by Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). Government of Bihar had suggested, in the past, construction of the following new railway line projects:—

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- i) Lalmatia—Kahalgaon.
  - ii) Ranchi—Giridih, via Hazaribagh.
  - iii) Deoghar—Dumka.
  - iv) Dehri-On-Sone—Pipradih—

Jadunathpur—Bhavnathpur.

v) Arrah—Sasaram.

Surveys were carried out for the above lines, but none of the projects was found to be viable. There is, therefore, no proposal at present to take up their construction.

[English]

**Assistance Provided by Banks in Alleppey District, Kerala**

651. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the villages in alleppey district in Kerala which are being provided assistance by the public sector banks under the village adoption scheme;

(b) if so, whether the villages under Kuttanad Paddy fields, known as 'the rice bowl of Kerala', have been included under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to include these villages under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

**Scheme of Spices Board for Development of Spices**

652. PROF. P.J. KURIEN Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spices Board has formulated any comprehensive scheme for the development of spices in Kerala and other spices growing States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for the development of spices in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Spices and the States identified under the scheme for spices development in selected states are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Crop	States
1.	Ginger	Kerala, Orissa, West Bengal, M.P.
2.	Turmeric	A.P., Orissa, T.N. and West Bengal.
3.	Coriander	A.P., Rajasthan and M.P.
4.	Cumin	Rajasthan and Gujarat.
5.	Fennel	—do—
6.	Fenugreek	—do—
7.	Celery	Punjab.
8.	Saffron	J and K.