

(d) if so, the nature thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### **Popularisation of Indian Tea in Foreign Countries**

1709. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount annually to popularise Indian tea in foreign countries;

(b) the number of propaganda units that have been established abroad and in which countries; and

(c) the other measures being taken to boost the demand of Indian tea in foreign market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Tea Board has spent Rs. 5.48 crores during 1987-88 and Rs. 5.23 crores during 1988-89 for tea promotion abroad.

(b) There are six tea promotion offices abroad, namely, in London (U.K.), Brussels (Belgium), New York (U.S.A.), Cairo (Egypt), Sydney (Australia) and Kuwait.

(c) To boost the demand of Indian tea abroad, inter alia, the following measures have been taken :—

1. Loan assistance to exporters in foreign exchange for brand promotion;
2. Shift from generic promotion to

uninational campaign for value-added teas;

3. CCS on tea bags, packet tea/tea caddies, instant tea and quick brewing black tea has been allowed;
4. To counter misbranding of other teas as Darjeeling teas, a logo for Darjeeling tea has been launched;
5. Tea bags have been exempted from excise duty;
6. Customs duty on filter paper used in manufacture of tea bags has been abolished;
7. Rebate of Excise duty on packet tea exports;
8. A provision of 10% of FOB realisation for advertising and promotion abroad by individual companies has been sanctioned;
9. Small scale packeters upto a annual turnover of Rs. 1.5 crores, have been exempted from Excise duty;
10. Exports of tea under bond has been allowed.

### **Refinancing of Housing Loans by National Housing Bank**

1710. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the refinance facilities extended by the National Housing Bank, bank/institution-wise, for housing loans during 1988-89 and proposed for 1989-90;

(b) whether State-wise utilisation of housing loans by each bank/institution is

being monitored; and

(c) if so, the total disbursements of housing loans, refinanced by the National Housing Bank, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that refinance schemes have been recently introduced in respect of direct housing loans sanctioned by the following:

- i) Scheduled Commercial Banks,
- ii) Scheduled State Cooperative Banks,
- iii) Scheduled Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks,
- iv) State Level Apex Cooperative Housing Finance Societies,
- v) Housing Finance Companies, and
- vi) Karnataka State Agricultural and Rural Development Bank.

The specified housing loans sanctioned by these institutions on or after 1st January, 1989 are eligible for refinance. The housing loans sanctioned upto Rs. 50,000/- per borrower (with a built up area not exceeding 40 sq. mts) are eligible for 100 per cent refinance. The area ceiling is relaxable in rural areas provided the cost of housing unit does not exceed Rs. 65,000/-. The housing loans above Rs. 50,000/- but below Rs. 1 lakh per borrower in urban areas for built up area not exceeding 40 sq. mts. are also eligible for refinance but the same is restricted upto Rs. 50,000/- only. Loans upto Rs. 30,000/- per borrower granted towards upgradation including major repairs irrespective of the built

up area both in rural and urban areas are eligible for 100 per cent refinance.

Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks have been advised recently to provide housing finance statistics State-wise with effect from 31st March, 1989.

National Housing Bank has reported that upto June, 1989 refinance to the extent of Rs. 40,000/- has been disbursed to one scheduled private sector bank and Rs. 95.98 lakhs to two housing finance companies.

#### **Optic Fibre Communication System**

1711. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have undertaken the execution of the project for laying optic fibre communication system along the electrified routes of the Central and South Eastern Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Optic Fibre Cable communication system is being adopted for Nagpur-Itarsi and Itarsi-Bhusaval sections of Central Railway and Nagpur-Durg section of South Eastern Railway.

#### **Incentives to Export Houses in Small Scale Sector**

1712. SHRI LAKSHAMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced a fast track scheme for granting incentive to export houses/trading houses and other exporters in all small scale sector; and