

hold Pre-Budget Meetings with various agencies where a number of suggestions are made. One such meeting was taken by the Finance Minister also with Trade Union Leaders on 7th of February, 1990. In this meeting various suggestions were made.

### **Tax on Green Tea Leaf**

1818. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items captioned "Assam tea planters facing crisis" appearing in "The Indian Express" dated February 18, 1990.

(b) if so, whether the promulgation of the ordinance imposing a 50 paise per kg. tax on green leaf would adversely affect the indigenous tea planters in Assam; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In view of the representations received from various tea associations regarding the implications of the ordinance, the Central Government have taken up the matter with the State Government of Assam.

### **Upgradation of Kanpur City**

1819. SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade Kanpur as 'A' class city; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) and (b). Kanpur

is already classified as an 'A' class city for the purpose of grant of Compensatory (City) Allowance. Though Kanpur is classified as a 'B-1' class city for the purpose of grant of House Rent Allowance to the Central Government employees, the rate of House Rent Allowance admissible in 'B-2', 'B-1' and 'A' class cities is the same.

### **Raids on Five Star Hotels**

1820. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any raids were conducted on five star hotels of Delhi by revenue intelligence and also other law enforcing authorities during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the names of hotels which were raided and details of smugglers and the narcotic drugs taken into custody by these authorities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Opening of Divisional Office of LIC at Berhampur, Orissa**

1821. SHRI A. N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a new Divisional Office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India at Berhampur in Ganjam District, Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) and (b). The LIC, under its Development Plan for the current year, has identified Berhampur as one of the places for opening its new Divisions in the near future. After ensuring its