

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). With a view to develop the tea industry in Darjeeling, Tea Board pays on interest subsidy @5.1% p.a. on the bank loans under its Darjeeling Interest Subsidy Scheme. The scheme envisages accelerated development at an estimated outlay of Rs. 43 crores over a period of 10 years. This includes extension planting in 2000 ha, replanting in 4500 ha, rejuvenation and infilling in 3000 ha, modernisation of tea factories, creation of irrigation facilities, adoption of improved cultural methods etc. Since inception of the scheme, 48 gardens have availed of the financial assistance.

Besides, the Darjeeling Tea Research Centre (DTRC), Kurseong under direct supervision of Tea Board, undertakes research in replantation, rejuvenation, young tea management, physiological aspects of tea, soil fertility and nutrition, biochemical aspects of flavour chemistry of tea. DTRC also works in the field of transfer of technology. Tea Research Association is also having one advisory unit located at Darjeeling mainly for the purpose of advisors services.

Corruption Cases Against Excise and Customs Officials

4294. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption and possession of assets disproportionate to known sources of income have been registered/pending against Excise and Customs officials during 1991-92 and 1992-93 so far; and

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Information is being collected will be laid down on the table of the House.

Irrigation Development Bank

4295. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government have made several requests for establishment of irrigation development bank at district level in the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). Ministry of Water Resources has not received requests for establishment of Irrigation Development Bank at district level in Gujarat State. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) do not have any proposal for setting up of such financial institutions for the said purpose.

[*Translation*]

National Highways in Bihar

4296. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects in Bihar regarding National Highways which were to be completed by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-1990);

(b) the names of the projects completed in scheduled time and names of those still incomplete and the names of those projects not started so far; and