

Export of Indian Tea to European Countries

5160. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that because of their present policies in regard to the tea export, European, especially UK importers, were turning away from Indian tea;

(b) if so, whether some of the Indian firms in U. K. are exporting tea from USSR;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have been urged to review the tea policy;

(d) if so, whether Government have considered the suggestions;

(e) the steps being taken to improve the tea exports; and

(f) whether the Indian tea which was considered best in the World has been reduced to number four ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) In recent years, there has been a change in the direction of exports of tea from India, from the traditional markets of U.K. and West Europe to the Countries in East Europe in West Asia and North African region. There has, however not been any decline in exports of tea from India.

(b) Government has no information in this regard.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) The Tea Marketing Plan 1985 has been framed with the objective of maximising foreign exchange earnings from tea export, by carefully regulating and monitoring exports.

(f) No, Sir.

Cheating of Banks and Private Financial Institution in Tamil Nadu

5161. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether at least ten nationalised and private banks and some private financial institutions in Tamil Nadu had been cheated

of over Rupees one crore in the past one year by a gang of tricksters posing themselves as transport operators;

(b) if so, the names of the banks that were cheated and the total amount that the banks had suffered;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted;

(d) if so, whether the cheats were able to cheat the banks because of collusion with some employees of banks; and

(e) if so, the action taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India has reported that during the years 1980-84, 13 public sector banks and one private sector bank *viz.* Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Vijaya Bank, United Commercial Bank, Union Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Indian Bank, Corporation Bank, Dena Bank, Central Bank of India, Canara Bank, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of India and Dhana-lakshmi Bank had granted loans in 56 accounts aggregating Rs. 76.88 lakhs for purchase of 41 second hand motor vehicles and machinery to set up small scale units to a trickster and his associates without proper appraisal and without observing the usual formalities and verification of the end use of funds. The accounts have become sticky.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered 9 cases under Section 120(b) r/w Section 420 IPC, Section 420, 467, 468 and 417 IPC against Shri Robin Mayne and others for investigation.

(d) and (e). Collusion of bank employees is suspected. Action against bank employees will depend upon their involvement, if any, in the basis of the investigation report of the C.B.I.

Setting up of A Regional Office of SBI at Agartala (Tripura)

5162. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of State Bank of India presently operating in Tripura;

(b) whether the Union Government have any proposal to set up a regional office at Agartala the State capital of Tripura;