

The commodities involved are computers, office machines, cotton fabrics, glass sheets, car body builders, coated fabrics, copper and copper alloys (pipes and tubes). The total amount of excise duty sought to be evaded is about Rs. 16.75 crores (approx.)

Tea Industry Suffering Due to Low Price at International Level

264. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tea industry is suffering due to international manipulators who price Indian tea at the same level as inferior tea produced by other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to break this foreign strangle-hold with a view to see that Indian tea fetches a reasonable price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) Pure Indian teas fetch higher prices in the International market as compared to teas from other countries. Unit f.o.b. export price for India, Srilanka and Kenya, during the past three years is as follows :

(US Dollar per kg)

	1981	1982	1983
India	2.08	1.98	2.45
Sri-Lanka	1.79	1.68	2.22
Kenya	1.79	1.81	1.84

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Stagnation in the Indian Economic Service

265. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether four hundred young economists recruited by the UPSC through All India Competitive Examination are stagnating for the last ten to

fifteen years in the Indian Economic Service; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the prospects of officers of this service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) No Sir. However, with a view to improving the prospects of the service, a cadre review is being undertaken by Government.

Loan Given Under Various Schemes by Branches of Nationalised Banks in Jahanabad, Gaya District

266. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of the branches of nationalised banks in the Jahanabad sub-division of Gaya district in Bihar;

(b) the amount of loans given so far under agriculture irrigation and self-employment schemes by these branches;

(c) whether interest is charged even on the exempted amount of loan sanctioned for irrigation purposes (tube wells) by the banks; and

(d) if so, the justification therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) According to available information, as at the end of December, 1984 there were 137 branches of commercial banks operating in Gaya District of Bihar. Of these 64 branches were those of Public Sector Banks.

(b) Data reporting system does not yield purpose-wise and scheme-wise information for each Sub-Division of the country in the manner desired. Targets and achievements of all banks in Gaya District under Action Plan, 1983 and corresponding targets for 1984 are given below :

(Rs. lakhs)

	AAP-1983		AAP-1984	
	Targets	Achievements	Targets	Achievements
1. Agri-cultures	605.35	261.55	544.35	
2. Industries	155.88	65.37	115.74	
3- Services	168.77	289.10	168.77	
Total	930.00	615.98	828.86	

So far as Self-Employment Scheme is concerned, the total amount sanctioned for Gaya District in 1983-84 was Rs. 98.49 lakhs. Against this the amount disbursed was Rs. 22.54 lakhs. For 1984-85 till November, 1984, the amount sanctioned and disbursed is Rs. 127.87 lakhs and Rs. 121.84 lakhs respectively.

(c) and (d) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the interest on subsidy amount available for minor irrigation schemes under programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Under the revised arrangements, District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) maintain subsidy accounts with banks and the subsidy paid to the beneficiaries is directly debited to these accounts. Therefore, there is no question of charging any interest on subsidy. However, in some earlier cases where the total amount was disbursed by the bank pending receipt of subsidy, the beneficiaries may have been required to pay interest on the subsidy amount till such time as the amount is made available by the concerned DRDA.

Export of Iron During Seventh five Year Plan

267. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK**: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the various agencies of Government which have been channelising the export of iron ore;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to increase the export of iron ore during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the export target set in terms of quantity for the above plan period; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the export of iron ore during the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Export of iron ore is canalised through Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., except that iron ore of Goan origin is allowed to be exported directly by Goan shippers to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and West Europe only. Export of iron ore pellets and co-operatives is canalised through Kudremukh Iron-ore Company Ltd.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The export target for iron ore and proposed to be taken to increase the export during the Seventh Five Year Plan are currently under consideration of the Government.

High Priority Status to Textile Industry

268. **PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether All India Manufacturers Organisation has urged Government to give high priority status to the textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The All India Manufacturers organisation submitted a memorandum to the Export Committee on Textile Industry in its meeting on the 4th March, 1985 at Delhi. The Export