

MANGANESE ORE :

(a) Manganese dioxide (containing 78% or more of MnO₂ and 4% or below Fe).

(b) 46% Mn and above

(c) 35% Mn and above but below 46% Mn

(d) Below 35% Mn but above 25% Mn

(e) 25% Mn or below

Thirty rupee per tonne.

Twelve rupees per tonne.

Seven rupees and fifty paise per tonne.

Five rupees per tonne.

Two rupees per tonne.

Directive to Financial Institutions due to New Licensing Policy for Synthetic Fibre

923. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the new liberalised licensing policy for Synthetic Fibre Government propose to direct public financial institutions to concentrate their preferences for investors in the eastern and central regions, which have poor account of investment under the new policy on decentralisation of industries during the periods of 1972-1977 and 1978-1983;

(b) if so, the time by which the necessary directives are proposed to be issued; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The public financial institutions are expected to consider all viable proposals keeping in view the priorities that have been laid down for them.

Tariff Rates of Foreign Newsprint

924. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the forty-sixth Annual

General Meeting of Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society pleaded for re-structuring the tariff rates of foreign newsprint;

(b) if so, whether Government agree with the request of the Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society;

(c) if so, whether efforts were made to restructure the tariff rates of foreign newsprint, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The speech of the President of the Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society delivered at its 46th Annual General Meeting refers to the December, 1984 judgement of the Supreme Court in regard to the levy of customs duty on newsprint and makes a plea for the removal of the levy.

(b) to (d). A detailed study in accordance with the judgement of the Supreme Court has been undertaken by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in the matter. The Bureau have already submitted their report. The matter has thereafter been examined and is under consideration of the Government. A final decision will be taken shortly.

Abolition of Minimum Export Price for Tea

925. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

have abolished minimum export price for tea; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). In view of prospects of higher world production, presence of large quantities of low quality teas in the world market and higher stocks level, the prices of tea have shown declining trend during 1985. In the drop of this situation, minimum export price on tea exports has been abolished so to enable Indian teas to compete effectively in the world market.

[Translation]

Accumulation of Huge Stocks of Small Staple Cotton with Farmers

926. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers in the country are getting remunerative price for small-staple and long-staple cotton;

(b) whether large stocks have accumulated with the farmers producing small-staple cotton and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for importing cotton last year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Cotton Corporation of India has been asked to purchase cotton at the minimum support prices as and when the market prices of kapas trend to fall below the support price to assure the farmer of remunerative prices.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The import of medium staple cotton was resorted to during the last cotton season to meet a part of the shortage in this variety estimated at that time.

[English]

Interest of Delayed Payment on Out-station Cheques

927. SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have directed nationalised banks to pay interest on out-station cheques which are not credited beyond 28 days;

(b) whether it is a fact that most cheques are delayed for a period between 21 and 25 days;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the period of delay permitted to only 20 days to make concession meaningful; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POJARY) : (a) Reserve Bank of India advised banks in August 1984 to pay interest at Savings Bank rate on outstation cheques drawn on their own branches after a period of 28 days where credit was afforded or cheques returned to the depositors beyond a period of 28 days of their lodgement.

(b) No specific data is available regarding the time required for collection cheques.

(c) and (d). The question of reducing the time taken by banks for collection of outstation cheques has been engaging the attention of government and the banks and significant improvement in this regard is expected with progressive improvement in communications and mechanisation.

Tourist Package Scheme for Members of Parliament

928. SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to arrange package tours on weekends for the