

Unauthorised storing of pre-Auction Teas

1730. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any complaint of unauthorised storing of pre-auction teas and violation of the condition of licences of other warehouses by a registered warehouses;

(b) if so, nature of the complaints;

(c) whether Government have enquired into the complaints;

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d). A complaint was received in June, 1985, against a registered warehouse in Calcutta in regard to violation of auction rules regarding unauthorised storing of pre-auction teas and violation of conditions of licences issued under Tea Warehouse (Licencing) Order 1980. The complaint was referred by the Tea Board to the Calcutta Tea Traders' Association who are organisers of public tea auctions in Calcutta and also the authority to register pre-auction warehouse. The Association made an enquiry into the matter and took suitable action to rectify the situation.

Youth Parliaments in Schools in Madras

1731. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has collaborated with the Directorate of Education (Schools), Madras for conducting Youth Parliaments in Schools; and

(b) if so, whether this is conducted regularly ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. On three different occasions, the Officers of

the Central Department of Parliamentary Affairs imparted Youth Parliament training to the teachers and Principals of the Schools who were to take part in the Youth Parliament Competitions in Madras City. Two Officers of the Tamil Nadu Government also obtained training in this Department.

(b) The State Governments, except when they seek financial assistance, are not required to send any report to this Department regarding the conduct of Youth Parliament Competitions in their Schools.

However, the State Government of Tamil Nadu claimed financial assistance for two years i.e. 1980-81 and 1982-83 for holding Youth Parliament Competitions in their Schools.

Opening of a Branch of Himachal Gramin Bank at village Pir Saluhi District (Kangra)

1732. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a branch of the Himachal Gramin Bank has been sanctioned for opening at village Pir Saluhi in district Kangra; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which it would be opened and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the Reserve Bank of India and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Purchase of Cotton lying with Cotton Growers of Guntur and Prakasam District by Cotton Corporation of India

1733. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that more than one lakh bales of cotton are lying with the cotton growing farmers of Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reason why the Cotton Corporation of India is not coming forward to purchase cotton at the maximum support price fixed by Government; and opening new purchase centre for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to help the farmers of Guntur and Prakasam in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) About 1 lakh bales of kapas of long staple cotton were reported to be lying with the farmers in Prakasam, Guntur and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Cotton Corporation of India makes purchases at the minimum support prices fixed by the Government wherever the prices tend to fall below the minimum support level. However, the minimum support prices are fixed with reference to fair average quality of kapas. Suitable deductions are required to be made by the Corporation on account of the quality difference whenever necessary. The Corporation opens new purchase centres after considering various factors such as, proper functioning of the regulated markets, adequate processing and storage facilities, and the expected arrivals of kapas at the proposed centres and the nearby areas.

(c) Steps taken in this regard are as follows :—

- (i) Streamlining of functioning of regulated markets.
- (ii) Strengthening of the CCI's infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) Special measures for marketing of unsold kapas stocks of the 1984-85 season with the farmers.
- (iv) Deputing a Central Team to visit different areas of Andhra Pradesh to look into the arrangement made for purchase of cotton.
- (v) Announcement of the minimum support prices of different varieties of cotton for 1985-86 cotton season.

(vi) Authorisation to the Cotton Corporation of India to undertake price support operations.

(vii) Release of cotton for export during the current cotton season.

Assistance to Handlooms to increase its sale in West Bengal

1734. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have sponsored any scheme for extending assistance to allow rebates on sales of handloom cloth to make it popular and to increase sales of handloom in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). With a view to popularise and to increase the sales of handloom cloth, the Government of India have been operating a scheme of Special Rebate on the sale of handloom products from 1975-76 onwards. The Rebate which is limited to 20 per cent is born equally by the Central and State Governments. During the year 1985-86, the Government of India allowed the scheme of Special Rebate on the sale of handloom cloth for a period of 45 days plus National Handloom Expos, approved and organised by the Development Commissioner for Handlooms. The other salient features of this scheme are as under :—

- (i) Rebate will be applicable only to the sales of handloom cloth, made at the retail outlets of apex institutions of Weavers' Cooperatives/State Handlooms Development Corporations in-charge of handloom development, weavers cooperative societies which have retail outlets and such other state bodies which have been set up for and are involved in the development of handloom sector.