

(iii) Excavation of the tail section of the Kakatiya Canal to serve as an escarpment (KM 267-284).

(b) The Section from 284 kms to 347 kms of Kankathya Canal was not included by the State Government in the project posed to the Bank.

**Accumulation of Arrears of work in Banks Due to Shortage of Staff.**

8586. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of staff in the nationalised banks including Reserve Bank of India the arrears of work are getting accumulated and the customer services are affected; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to overcome the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Most of the nationalised banks have reported that they have adequate staff to ensure that there are no arrears of work and customer services are maintained. Other banks, including Reserve Bank of India, have reported that the services of existing staff are so deployed as to ensure that there is no accumulation of work and customer services are not affected.

**Closure of Tea Gardens of Assam**

8587. SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that as many as 35 tea gardens in Assam are closed for about a year;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken for re-opening of the same;

(c) whether Government propose to take over the management of the said gardens; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (b). Tea industry is by and large doing well and incidence of sickness has come down to a marginal level. No cases of prolonged closure have been reported after 1982 except stray incidents or problems. Take over of management of gardens which have been closed for a long period or are in abandoned state may not be a viable solution for tackling sickness. Remedies have to be found on a case by case basis. The policy followed is broadly on the lines for other industries. Various developmental measures have been initiated to improve productivity or minimise the incidences of sickness.

**Hindi Officers in Collectorate of Central Excise and Customs**

8588. SHRI GANGA RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of posts of Hindi Officers lying vacant in the various collectorates of Central Excise and Customs under his Ministry and the names of stations where these posts are lying vacant;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill up the above vacancies; and

(c) the total number of Hindi Officers already working in the subordinate offices of Central Board of Excise and Customs and their places of posting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) 10 posts of Hindi Officers are at present lying vacant in the Guntur, Madurai, Madras, Bhubaneshwar, Shillong, Kanpur, Meerut and Chandigarh Central Excise Collectorates and Goa and Madras Custom Houses.

(b) Action has already been initiated to fill up the vacancies according to the recruitment rules.

(c) There are 23 Hindi Officers working in the sub-ordinate and attached offices of the Central Board of Excise and Customs. They are posted at Delhi, Jaipur, Patna,

Allahabad, Indore, Gwalior, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bombay, Pune, Nagpur, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Cochin.

**Assistance to Growers of Sticklac**

8589. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the nature of assistance/incentives being given by Government to the growers to motivate them to increase the production of sticklac;

(b) to what extent the domestic demand for sticklac has been met with indigenous production during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the annual production projection of sticklac for the year 1986-87 and how the target is likely to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) The Central sector schemes of "Extension Work and Pacage Programme for Lac Cultivation in various States" is being implemented with 100% central grant to educate the growers in improve methods of lac cultivation and to motivete them to increase the production of sticklac by giving them suitable demonstrations and also incentives in the form of broodlac, prunip implements, insecticides, etc. Presently this scheme is being implemented in lac growing States of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, U.P. and Gujarat.

(b) Production of sticklac during the last three years was as under :

1983-85	11605 MTs
1984-85	12955 MTs
1985-86	13175 MTs

Domestic demand of lac is estimated to be about 2,000 MTs per annum. The surplus quantity is available for exports.

(c) Production of sticklac for 1986-87 may be 20,000 MTs against 18175 MTs

during 1985-86. Baisakhi crop of 1986-87 which is the principal crop of lac, is expected to be fairly good. It is proposed to bring additional area under lac cultivation by demonstrations and increasing the availability of broodlac.

**Growing Demand of Palmolein Oil**

8590. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a growing demand of palmolein oil in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States which consumed more palmolein oil supplied by the Central pool in 1984-85 and 1985-86; and

(c) the steps taken to supply more quantity of palmolein oil to the consumers in the States where the demand has been increasing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) and (b) Palmolein is a preferred imported edible oil in certain areas, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are the major Palmolein consuming States. Statewise details of consumption of palmolein under Public Distribution System for the financial years 1984-85 and 1985-86 are given in the statement below.

(c) All efforts are being made to reduce imports of edible oils. The allocation of imported edible oils, including palmolein oil, to the State Governments/Union Territories under public Distribution System is made by the Central Government from month to month on the basis of demand; consumption pattern, festival season availability of indigenous edible oils in the States/Union Territories or region, availability of stocks with State Trading Corporation of India and other relevant factors including the pace of lifting of edible oils allocated earlier to the States.