

to meeting the requirements of plastic processes units and to bridge the gap between indigenous production and demand, STC was authorised to import LDPE in April, 1986. Since STC has been earlier handling imports of LDPE till 1976 and meeting the requirements of industry satisfactorily, it is expected that interest of industry will not be adversely affected on account on entrusting STC with imports of LDPE.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The country is not likely to be self-sufficient in LDPE in the near future.

Power Shortage to Tea Industry

189. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tea Industry in Kerala is badly hit due to power shortage as reported in the 'Times of India' dated 4 July, 1986 ;

(b) whether this would affect production and export ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). A representation has been received against power cuts imposed by the Kerala Government on all high tension consumers including tea industry. The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

[Translation]

Security Arrangements at Tourist Centres for Safety of Foreign Tourists

190. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been decline in the number of foreign tourists in view of the extremists' activities ;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government to tighten the security

arrangements at tourist centres for their safety ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) Foreign tourist traffic to the country has shown a significant increase of account 14.6 per cent during the first six months of 1986 as compared to the arrivals during the same period in the previous year.

(b) to (d) . Does not arise.

[English]

Merger of Regional Rural Banks with Commercial Banks

191. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN · SHRI R. P. DAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to merge regional rural banks with commercial banks ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have received any demand in this regard ;

(d) if so, the action taken by Union Government?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir,

(d) Government are of the view that regional Rural Banks should continue to function as separate entities.

Development of Kushinagar (U.P.) As Tourist Centre

192. SHRI RAM DHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kushinagar in the district of Deoria (UP) where Bhagwan Buddha attained Hirvana, and which attracts large number of foreign tourists and is also a place