

(c) the result of the tour and prospects of Indian tea export this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). A delegation led by Chairman, Tea Board with members from Indian Tea Association, and Darjeeling planters Association visited United Kingdom, West Germany and Ireland recently with the objective of meeting the tea trade in these countries and also for launching of new logo for Darjeeling Tea with the object of reducing mis-branding of Darjeeling Tea expenditure on the visit with respect to Chairman, Tea Board was met by Tea Board and in respect of other members of delegation by the respective organisations.

As a result of the visit, it is generally felt that favourable climate has been created for Indian tea exports to these countries.

**Special Study of Districts of West Bengal
by NABARD**

228. **SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision was taken to undertake a special study of some representative districts of West Bengal by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with State Government and commercial banks ; and

(b) if so, by what time such study would be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The State Level Bankers Committee for the State of West Bengal has set up a working group with a representative of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as convener and comprising of representatives of selected commercial banks and a representative of the State Government, to identify and formulate specific schemes for different regions keeping in view the Agro Climatic Regions of the State. No specific time limit has been prescribed for

completion of the task assigned to the Working Group.

**Steps taken to Boost Tourist Industry in
Jammu and Kashmir State**

229. **SHRI P. NAMGYAL :** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the measure steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost the tourism industry of Jammu and Kashmir State ;

(b) whether it is a fact that air and road transport fare concessions have been announced for the tourists visiting Kashmir valley ;

(c) if so, the quantum of such concessions offered ;

(d) reasons for not giving such fare concessions to tourists going to Ladakh ; and

(e) whether Government will grant such concession for tourists visiting Ladakh also ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) to (e). The special measures which the Government has taken for promotion of tourist traffic to the J & K State are for the whole State including the Kashmir Valley, Jammu region and Ladakh. These measures included besides Railway and Indian Airlines concessions, re-assurance campaign in the newspapers, publicity through Doordarshan and holding of Kashmir festivals in important cities.

Railways has offered concessions on return travel of 25% on second class, 15% on 1st and AC-II class and 10% on air-conditioned. Indian Airlines has offered a concession of 30% on the return leg of the basic fare on travel to Srinagar. To cater to the tourists visiting Ladakh, Indian Airlines had run special services to provide extra space to clear the rush during season. Indian Airlines have given concession to Srinagar, as that is the dispersal point for tourist traffic to both destinations in the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh.