

opened at 2 centres against the 21 allotments. Reserve Bank of India has reported that in the remaining centres branches have not so far been opened.

Destruction of Tobacco Barns by Floods

1816. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tobacco barns fully/partly damaged in Khammam, West and East Godavari, Warangal and Krishana districts due to heavy floods in Andhra Pradesh in August, 1986 and the estimated loss to the barns ;

(b) whether Tobacco Board has suggested to the Union Government to assist the affected farmers for reconstruction/repairs of the damaged barns with subsidy element so that tobacco production is not affected adversely ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government there to and the pattern of assistance to be given to barn owners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) According to the assessment made by the Tobacco Board, 3514 tobacco Barns have been full/partly damaged due to floods in Andhra Pradesh in August, 1986 and the extent of loss to the barns is estimated at Rs. 2.30 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The nationalised banks have been requested to extend financial assistance in the form of term loan for reconstruction/repair of the barns.

The State Government had reported that 60 tobacco barns were damaged in East and West Godavari district due to floods. The State Government had requested for assistance of Rs. 0.50 lakhs towards subsidy on repairs to 24 tobacco barns belonging to small and marginal farmers. Based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon, a sum of Rs. 0.50 lakh has been approved to the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 22nd October, 1986 for repairs of the damaged tobacco barns.

Export of Tobacco by Andhra Tobacco Growers' Union

1817. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Coop. Union Ltd. has purchased nearly 1500 tons of tobacco from the growers in the 1986 crop season ;

(b) whether it is a fact that only 150 tons of export order to USSR was given to the Union through State Trading Corporation as a result of which large stock of tobacco is still left with the Union ; and

(c) if so, whether Union Government propose to give more export quote to the Union through STC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) The Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Union Ltd. purchased around 1708 tonnes of 1986 crop of VFC tobacco on the auction platforms established by the Tobacco Board.

(b) and (c) USSR makes commercial purchases of tobacco from various firms in India. In the year 1986, USSR placed on order for supply of 1200 MT of tobacco on STC. STC initiated a scheme, under which orders for export to USSR were distributed to 22 small packers/exporters who got 50 MTs each and the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Union was allocated a quantity of 150 MTs.

Fire Accidents in Purchase Centres of C.C.I.

1818. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of TAXILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fire accidents which took place in Cotton Corporation of India purchasing centres during 1986-87 and the total loss suffered in such accidents ;

(b) whether reports were received about possible sabotage and collusion of some CCI officials and few traders ;

(c) if so, whether C.B.I. enquiry was conducted into these incidents ; and

(d) the findings of C.B.I. and the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No fire accidents occurred at the purchasing centres of the Cotton Corporation of India during the Cotton year 1986-87 (from Sept. 1986) and therefore there is no question on any loss to the Corporation on account of fire accidents.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Conference of Collectors of Excise Department

1819. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of collectors of Excise department was held during September, 1986 ;

(b) if so, the object of the meeting : and

(c) the details of decisions taken therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The East, West and North Zone Collectors' of Central Excise, Conferences were held at Bhubaneswar, Bombay and New Delhi respectively during the month of September 1986 to review Central Excise revenue collections on various excisable commodities and to discuss the various administrative aspects of those Collectorates. These conferences are a monthly feature.

A meeting of five Collectors of Central Excise, having M/s. J.T.C. factories under their jurisdiction, was also held at Calcutta to finalise assessments relating to cigarettes manufactured by these factories.

Recovery of Taxes

1820. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of excise duty, income tax and customs duty recovered during 1985 and details out of these amounts realised from multinational companies ; and

(b) the details of duties likely to be recovered during 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House .

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

1821. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the effectiveness or otherwise of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 in curbing the drug menace in the country ;

(b) if so, the percentage by which drug addiction and its clandestine trade in the country has increased or decreased since the enforcement of the legislation stating its drawbacks, if any ; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to tackle the drug abuse menace in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, which came into force with effect from 14.11.1985, besides providing for deterrent punishments for drug offences, has also empowered officers of the various Central and State Government agencies for seizure, search, arrest and conducting of investigation in respect of drug offence cases. Government have been monitoring effective enforcement of the aforesaid enactment. As a result of various measures taken and the vigorous drive launched against drug trafficking, there has been considerable increase in the quantities of drugs seized from 14.11.1985 (i.e., the date of coming into force of the new Act) to