

ment has been earmarked for purpose of plantation and replantation. In addition, funds for this purpose are provided from NABARD as well as from internal generation of the tea industry. The tea industry in West Bengal is expected to do reasonably well in the sphere of production and productivity during the Seventh Plan period.

Study of Ground Water Problems in Calcutta

9151. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry and the Central Ground Water Board are studying the ground water problems of Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether there is an alarming depletion of the groundwater resources in Calcutta which may lead to its sinking at some stage; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to sort out the groundwater problem in Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In Calcutta the decline of ground water level ranging between 4.5 to 7.2 m. has been noticed in the Baghbazar — Shyambazar sector and in the Park Street — Kalighat — Bhawanipur Sector, whereas rise in ground water level ranging from 2.2 to 3.3 metres has been noticed in the Jadavpur — Garia — Tollyganj sector.

Surface manifestations of land subsidence have not yet been observed.

Import of Hides and Skins

9152. SHRI P.M.SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some suggestions to step up the import of hides and skins to increase domestic availability for export of leather finished goods; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Duty free import of raw and wet blue hides and skins, crust leather and finished leather of bovine animals has already been permitted under Open General Licence, with a view to augmenting the availability of leather in the country.

India's Trade with EEC

9153. SHRI P.M.SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade with the European Economic Community (EEC) at present is very little as compared to its total trade in the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of the latest report on the future prospects of the European Economic Community prepared by the renowned consultants; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to exploit the vast potential of the EEC in the early next decade starting in 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). India's trade with European Economic Community (EEC) is not insignificant. During 1986-87, India's trade with EEC, both imports and exports, was of the order of Rs.9345 crores, or nearly 29 percent of India's global trade.

(c) It is learnt that the EEC has recently released the summary of a study prepared by Mr. Cecchini commissioned to evaluate the benefits of single market, an objective EEC has set for itself to achieve by the end of 1992.

(d) EEC being an important market for Indian exports, several export promotion measures have been initiated especially towards integrated product and market development in specified sectors which have high potential for growth.

Export of Ornamental Fish to the Netherlands

9154. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to export ornamental fish to the Netherlands;

(b) if so, whether any formal proposal has come from that country; and

(c) which agency of Government is dealing with the export of fish to the Netherlands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). Ornamental fish are exported from India to some countries including Netherlands. Such exports are carried out directly by individual exporters. However, the MPEDA under the Ministry of Commerce is the nodal agency for development of export trade of marine products is implementing a project with the assistance of the Netherlands Government for development of Ornamental/ Aquarium fishes for increasing export.

Loan from World Bank

9155. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount taken as loan from the World Bank for the drought relief measures for the year 1987-88;

(b) the rate of interest charged by the World Bank; and

(c) the rate of interest charged by the Union Government from the States where the World Bank drought assistance is being disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Assistance amounting to \$350 Million has been agreed to by the World Bank Group for drought assistance to India. Of this, \$150 Million will be a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and \$200 Million credit from International Development Association (IDA).

(b) and (c) IBRD Loans carry interest fixed at six monthly intervals. The current rate of interest is 7.72%. IDA Credits carry no interest charges but only a service charge of 0.75% on the disbursed portion of the credit. There is a commitment fee of 0.50% on the undisbursed portion of IDA Credits and 0.75% on the undisbursed portion of the loan amount. The assistance is not being disbursed to the State Governments and therefore the question of charging interest from the State Governments does not arise.

Import of Chinese Raw Silk

9156. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: