

number of steps have been taken for improving the performance of these banks and reducing their losses. These include (i) release of additional share capital to RRBs with satisfactory track record; (ii) enlarging the scope of their lending by allowing them to lend to village panchayats/public bodies etc. (iii) lowering of interest rate on refinance provided to these banks by their sponsor banks; and (iv) investment of their SLR funds directly in Government securities of better yield. The sponsoring banks have also been advised to play a more active role in fund management, staff training and internal audit of RRBs.

[*Translation*]

#### **Production and export of Tea and Coffee**

2699. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether because of decline in production of tea and coffee in the country, the export of these items have gone down and the prices thereof have gone up at home;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken concrete steps to augment the production of tea and coffee in the country;

(c) if so, the progress achieved in this regard; and

(d) if not, the shortage likely to occur vis-a-vis demand in the country as a result of exports of tea and coffee during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI):—(a) In tea there has been a record production in 1987 and in coffee there has been some fluctuation in production because of cyclical nature of the Coffee Crop.

Further, despite severe competition in the international market India has been able

to maintain its share in the global market of tea and coffee.

(b) to (d). Keeping in view growing domestic demand and the need to generate more exportable surplus both in respect of tea and coffee, Government have taken a number of measures to increase production and productivity of tea and coffee. These measures include the following:—

#### **A-TEA:**

- (i) A Committee has been set up to prepare a long-term strategy and plan for tea.
- (ii) A National Committee on Tea Research has been set up.
- (iii) All the tea estates have been asked to submit their seven year Action-Plan to increase production and productivity.
- (iv) Tea Plantation Finance Scheme—Tea Board's loans for replanting, extension planting, replacement.
- (v) Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment Hire Purchase Scheme—Tea Board's loans for Irrigation Equipment and Tea Machinery.
- (vi) Tea Replantation Subsidy for Replanting old bushes.
- (vii) Tea Area Rejuvenation and consolidation Scheme — Subsidy for rejuvenation, pruning and infilling.
- (viii) New Tea Unit Financing Scheme — Special loans and subsidy for extending tea cultivation in non-traditional areas.
- (ix) Darjeeling Interest Subsidy Scheme — Special Scheme for revival of Darjeeling gardens

which have been languishing on account of high cost of production. Loans are from banks and Tea Board pays 5.1% interest subsidy.

- (x) Scheme for interest subsidy on Bank loan for irrigation and Drainage.
- (xi) Scheme for Interest Subsidy on Bank loan for Extension Planting.
- (xii) Investment Deposit Account Scheme — Tea Companies can deposit upto 20% of their profits in NABARD tax free, for use on productive purpose later on.

#### B-COFFEE:

- (i) Coffee Board is operating several schemes for providing development loans for intensive cultivation, replanting, extensive cultivation, special purpose crop hypothecation and hire purchase scheme.
- (ii) Scheme for grant of subsidy on replanting, interest and expansion subsidy.
- (iii) Scheme for training projects, mobile soil-testing projects, project for seed multiplication and collection.
- (iv) Strengthening of the research and extension unit of the Coffee Board.
- (v) Demonstration farms.

#### Use of regional languages in the work of courts

2700. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received

any representation regarding use of regional languages in the work of courts;

(b) if so whether it is a fact that a demand is being made for the past many years for use of Hindi in courts in the northern, eastern and central parts of the country;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to get the work done in the courts of these States in Hindi only; and

(d) if so, by what time and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Section 272 of Cr. P.C. 1973 provides that the State Government may determine what shall be the language of each court within the State other than the High Court.

#### Transfer of immovable property of Hindustan Lever Limited

[English]

2701. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 11th December, 1987 to Unstarred Question No 5496 regarding Ghaziabad Factory of Hindustan Lever Limited and state:

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Limited have applied to the Reserve Bank of India for permission for transfer of a part of its immovable properties situated at Ghaziabad, Etah and Tiruchirapalli along with plants and machinery; and

(b) if so, the details of the immovable property including the plants and machinery which is sought to be transferred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS