

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ((SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir. 76 new Branch Offices and 15 new Divisions of LIC mentioned in Annexure to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 8608 dated 2 May, 1986 have been opened.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The LIC has sanctioned opening of 73 new Branches during the current financial year (1988-89) as under :-

<i>Zone</i>	<i>No. of branches</i>
Northern	10
Central	13
Eastern	14
Southern	19
Western	17
Total	73

No decision has been taken on the number of new branches to be opened during the year 1989-90. The setting up of new Divisional Offices involves large scale planning and preparation and it is not possible to lay down time-bound programme for Divisional Offices. During the current financial year, the LIC proposes to open four Divisional Offices and it also proposes to open 3 more Divisional Offices during 1989-90.

**Payment of legal dues to
NTC workers**

3389. SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the jobless workers of the closed National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills had not yet got their legal dues; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Union Government in this regard :

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) and (b). No nationalised mill of NTC has been closed.

Tea auction in Calcutta

3390. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the tea auction in Calcutta recently there was weak support for tea from overseas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of buyers who participated in the auction and the names of the countries to which they belonged;

(d) the details of total deals made;

(e) the steps being taken to attract more countries to purchase Indian Tea in the coming years; and

(f) the steps being taken to popularise tea products abroad through propaganda ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A large number of buyers from Russia, Poland, ARE, UAE, etc., participated in the auction.

(d) Out of the total action sale from 1st August, 1988 to 10th August, 1988 it is estimated that approximately 70 per cent was for exports.

(e) and (f). A number of steps have been initiated for enhancing exports of Indian teas; and value added teas which include the following :

- (1) Tea Board have been undertaking generic and uninational promotional campaign in different countries for promotion of export of tea.
- (2) Excise duty rebate on export of tea.
- (3) Provision of 10 per cent of FOB realisation for advertising and promotion by individual companies abroad.
- (4) A special incentive scheme to promote exports of South Indian Tea has been introduced for 1988-89.
- (5) Sanction of Scheme under the Brand Promotion Fund and under warehousing Subsidy Scheme,
- (6) Leading Tea Exporters have been asked to draw up their export plan as a part of their corporated plan for the next years.
- (7) Increase in the rate of REP license for packet tea, tea bags and instant tea with effect from 1.4.88.
- (8) REP at the rate of 4 per cent of the FOB value of bulk tea exported with effect from 1.4.88.
- (9) A special campaign has been launched to promote Darjeeling tea in the UK market.

Revision of Electoral Rolls

3391. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) when the electoral rolls were prepared last in the country including Union Territories; and

(b) whether Government propose to pursue the Election Commission to revise the electoral rolls before the next general elections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) The electoral rolls of all the States and Union territories except the State of Punjab and Assam were got revised by the Election Commission last year with 1.1.87, as the qualifying date.

(b) In order to keep the electoral rolls up-to-date and in as perfect a condition as possible, the Election Commission undertakes an annual revision of rolls. Currently the Election Commission has ordered a summary revision of rolls with 1.1.1988 as the qualifying date in respect of the States of Haryana, Kerala, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Delhi. An intensive revision with the same qualifying date has been ordered in respect of the remaining States and Union territories except Assam. In respect of Assam also the Commission has taken preliminary action for undertaking the process of intensive revision. The question of Government pursuing the Election Commission does not arise.

Additional facilities to Export Houses

3392. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide some additional facilities to export houses;

(b) if, so the details thereof with reasons for such additional facilities;

(c) the context in which these additional facilities are proposed to be given;

(d) whether these additional facilities will in any way affect domestic market;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof ?