

[English]

Decentralisation of Powers of Tea Board**Aquisition of Japanese Fishing Vessels by SCICI**

3592. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the depression in the deep sea fishing industry;

(b) whether the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India (SCICI) has been negotiating with Japanese firms to acquire fishing vessels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which acquisition of Japanese ships will help revival of deep sea fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) SCICI has reported that fishing industry has been facing difficulties during the past two years, mainly on account of over exploitation of shrimp resources by an increasing number of trawlers, unwillingness on the part of entrepreneurs to diversify into non-shrimp resources and shortfall in Shrimp Production. To help the Fishing Industry face this crisis, Government of India has considered granting of reliefs to fishing units by way of rescheduling of loan instalments and deferment of interest in respect of the loans granted by the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee to the fishing companies. (in respect of potentially viable companies).

(b) and (c). SCICI has reported that they have not been negotiating with the Japanese Firms to acquire fishing vessels.

3593. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for decentralising powers of the Tea Board;

(b) if so, reasons therefore;

(c) whether Tea Board employees have opposed this proposal; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Order have already been issued regarding delegation of power. This has been done for better implementation of the Tea Board Scheme.

(c) and (d). There have been some representations in this regard. Such representations are considered on the merits of the matter and in line with existing Government policy.

[Translation]

New Train on Chhapra-Madras/Hyderabad Section

3594. SHRI KESHORA PARDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a train on Chhapra-Jhansi-Nagpur-Madras/Hyderabad Sections; and

(b) whether there is a proposal to extend the train running between-Patna upto Chhapra?