

Statement by Chairman of Tea Council of Australia

2441. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by the Chairman of the Tea Council of Australia, while addressing the Tea Traders' Association at Cochin in the first week of September last in regard to the quality of tea; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. However, Mr. Bowman, Chairman of the Australian Tea Council, has emphatically denied that he made the statement reported to have been made by him, namely that "Indian tea was the worst in the world".

Committee of I.S.I. on manufacturing of helmets

2442. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Sub-Committee of the Indian Standards Institution has recently been appointed to suggest new norms in the manufacture of helmets for the protection of scooters and two wheelers driver; and

(b) if so, the findings of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b).

No such sub-committee has recently been appointed. However, ISI had set up a sub-committee as far back as in 1967 to formulate standards for different types of helmets. This Committee reviewed the position in October, 1977 in respect of specifications for helmets for scooter and motor cycle drivers, in the light of the experience of the users, particularly in regard to the provisions on ventilation and effect on audibility. The sub-committee has decided to circulate the amendments it proposes to make in the provisions of the original specification for wide circulation to elicit comments.

Dry port at Amritsar

2443. SHRI M. A. HANNAN AL-HAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government have demanded a dry port for Amritsar; and

(b) if so, whether in view of the fact that States of Punjab, Haryana/Himachal Pradesh are far off from the ports, Government propose to take immediate steps to fulfil this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question of establishing a dry port in the Northern Region has been receiving the attention of the Government for sometime. After careful consideration the Government have come to the conclusion that the project is not of immediate priority in the present stage of the country's economy. The Government has, therefore, decided not to take up the project for immediate implementation.