

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जलकिकारउल्लाह): (क) से (ग)- देश की भूतपूर्व रियासतों के जिन भूतपूर्व नरेशों की तरफ 31 अक्टूबर, 1978 की स्थिति के अनुसार आयकर और धनकर की एक लाख रुपये से अधिक की रकम बकाया थी, उनके सम्बन्ध में मांगी गयी सूचना तत्काल उपलब्ध नहीं है। चूँकि सभी भूतपूर्व नरेशों के सम्बन्ध में इस सूचना को एकत्रित करने और तैयार करने में पर्याप्त समय और श्रम लगने की सम्भावना है इसलिए यह सूचना उन 102 भूतपूर्व भारतीय नरेशों के सम्बन्ध में एकत्रित की जा रही है जो 1971 से पहले एक लाख और उससे अधिक रकम का प्रिवीपर्स ले रहे थे। यह सूचना यथासंभव शीघ्र सदन-पटल पर रख दी जायगी।

Approval to Private Entrepreneurs to Start Janata Hotels

1885. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of private entrepreneurs have sought approval of Government to start Janata Hotels in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such enquiries received by Government giving details of the proposed projects; and

(c) the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. 41 enquiries have been received from private entrepreneurs. While majority of these sought information regarding the Janata hotel scheme, others desired specific informa-

tion on availability of fiscal and other incentives for the construction of such hotels. The broad guidelines of the scheme have been furnished to the parties concerned. The policy relating to the availability of fiscal and other reliefs for the construction of Janata hotels is under the consideration of Government.

Experts Committee Report on Marketing of Tea

2886. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Experts Committee on Marketing of tea has submitted its reports to Government; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the report?

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

(b) The main recommendations of the Report are contained in the Statement attached.

Statement

Main recommendations of the Committee on tea marketing. Domestic Market:

Taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of ex-garden sales, this channel may be left open to the choice of the producers and the buyers, because of its intrinsic advantages; there should, however, be a monitoring authority, the Tea Board to whom all gardens should report their sales, ex-garden, C&F, auctions, and the prices at which they were made.

While the present system of C&F sales may be allowed to continue, in the larger interest of the industry and the country, a review system should be instituted to ensure that all runs well at no

cost to the country and exchequer. In this, Tea Board in conjunction with Customs and Reserve Bank, should make a quarterly review of a representative sample of transactions, the price at which sales were made, to ensure that C&F Sales were generally in line with the prevailing prices obtained at auctions, so that C&F sales bring in equivalent amount of foreign exchange over a period.

London Tea Auctions

London auctions are regarded, in India, U.K. and the Continent as a price beacon. However, auctions in India, and at other centres in the producing countries, are steadily gaining ground from London auctions. The London brokers would be happy to associate with the Indian tea interests, which should be exploited by India. In view of this, the Committee, has recommended that one should leave it to the buyers choice to buy in India or abroad, and we may continue to use the London auctions and associate ourselves with them.

Tea Auctions in India

Tea Board should be associated in some manner with the conduct of auctions in India. to ensure that their role is properly fulfilled to the advantage and satisfaction of all concerned—Industry, Government, trade and consumer.

The Committee has suggested that a review may be made of the different sales taxes now levied at auctions with a view to rationalising them if not altogether eliminating such terms from the primary sales.

Export of added-value items

Packaging may be done by some associates in countries that sell significant quantities, either in India or abroad, depending upon the economics. Further, to offer ready deliveries, it has been suggested by the Committee

that warehousing arrangements may have to be made abroad.

Given some encouragement and leeway for instant tea in the domestic market, exporters could use it for test marketing with the intention to export the right quality abroad.

Small Tea Growers

It has been suggested by the Committee that in order to protect the interests of small growers, more co-operative factories should be opened. In this regard, a special responsibility may also be placed upon the public sector companies. At the same time, the relief granted to the small growers by the Central excise duty should be increased.

Further, some priority should be given in the matter of cataloguing of teas at auctions in respect of small producers holdings, upto, say 100 hectares which will enable them to realise their sale proceeds a little earlier.

A special study of the small growers should be made by the Tea Board and tea industry. together with the representatives of small growers, which should be updated every three or five years. In this context, the tea Associations in the North and South India should also develop separate cells which will liaise with the small growers, cell of the Tea Board and the Small Growers Association.

Marketing at retail level

The excise duty and any other levies on packet tea should be removed to give the consumer the freedom of choice in purchasing loose tea or packet tea.

Tea industry and research should develop cheaper packaging material in order to ensure lower retail prices.

The Committee has expressed its opinion that Public enterprises in tea selling are meant to exercise a discipline over the retail trade in keeping prices at reasonable levels.

These institutions, particularly the TTCI, NAFED and NCCF, should regard it their particular responsibility to develop packaged tea, marketing of standard qualities at standard, fair prices for which they have to strengthen their distribution network and marketing strategies.

Export policy and promotion

Ceiling on Indian tea exports will cut across the need for international tea promotion and therefore we have to first decide on our long-term policy approach in this regard.

The imposition of export duty should be carefully reviewed from time to time in the light of what precisely it seeks to achieve, and its introduction should not effect contracts genuinely entered into before the duty is imposed—for this purpose what is a contract should be clearly defined so that the buyers know where they stand. The Committee has mentioned that much ill will was created by the retroactive application of duty and loss of exports.

Working of the Tea Centres abroad of the Tea Board should be reviewed so as to make them more effective instruments of uninational promotion.

A committee consisting of experienced advertising and promotion men should be set up to examine the whole question of tea propaganda abroad, its shape, its spread, and the costs; and on the basis of its recommendations provide adequate funds for this purpose.

Tea Board should conduct market research through agencies abroad to study the tea consuming habits and preferences to help evolve uninational campaigns which could build the image and sales of Indian tea.

Tea Board should prepare a five-year budget, which is the necessary span of time for such campaigns to be conceived and implemented. There should be a rolling plan, within which

the Tea Board should have the power to spend without individual sanctions.

As promotional work abroad is specialised, men selected for posting should, first have some training in such work and second be assured long enough tenures to make effective contribution. Two year tenures are inadequate.

Public sector and tea industry

The task of public enterprises should be carefully defined and planned and their overall role in the tea industry and trade examined.

Tea Research

As promotional work abroad is specialised men selected for posting should, first have of matching contributions by government and the industry.

An appropriate clearing house of projects and results, thinking and guidelines is needed. Such a clearing house should be possible if the Tea Board, CSIR. Industry and tea scientists work together in a single equation, with its own funds. There should therefore be one research apex body to coordinate tea research.

A Research centre should be set up to concentrate on market and consumer research and combine it with economics, statistics, social and operations research, and a data bank for the industry.

Tea research should develop lighter, more economical substitutes to the traditional plywood tea chests which is placing a great burden upon our rapidly depleting timber resources. Research should also delve into the areas of tea packaging and containers to help develop cheaper packing suitable for our climatic conditions.

Financing of Tea Industry

Extension planting and replanting should each be increased to about

4000 hectares a year during the next decade so as to accelerate production.

To meet the growing future financial needs of the tea industry, the Committee has suggested to Government an examination of two alternatives. First, the Tea Board may extend its existing financial activities, and make use of its considerable expertise of tea industry in the field of providing long-term finance. Alternatively, for the financial expertise required and the large order of finance and the number of disbursements in the future, there may be an advantage in forming a new Tea Finance Body comprising Tea Board, financial institutions and the tea industry, under the administrative control of the Ministry dealing with the commodity.

A special task force consisting of economists in association with the Tea Board should be appointed to—Prepare a comprehensive economic study of tea industry's future requirements; and

—Prepare a blueprint for tea industry's financial needs and the most suitable organisation to meet those needs, its responsibilities and functions.

Failure of R.B.I. to regulate Banking System

2887. SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Reserve Bank of India, in its capacity as the central Banking authority vested with powers to regulate the entire banking system has failed to discharge its responsibility;

(b) whether owing to its failure a huge amount of public money has been frittered away or misused by the managements of private sector banks to the detriment of depositors; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The suggestion that the Reserve Bank of India have failed to discharge their responsibility as the central banking authority is not in accord with facts.

(b) and (c). Complaints are often received against managements of some of the banks in the private sector about misuse of public funds. Such complaints are investigated by the Reserve Bank and if they are found to have some substance the matter is taken up with the banks concerned for necessary corrective action through issue of specific directions, if necessary, and keeping a close watch on follow up. Recently, Governor, Reserve Bank, in a meeting of the Chairman of banks convened on 28.11.78, stressed that the managements of the private sector banks should conform not only to the letter of the law but also be in tune with the spirit of social control.

Flights to Foreign Countries from Calcutta Airport

2888. SHRI DHIRENDRA NATH BASU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights to foreign countries from Calcutta Airport direct;

(b) whether it is a fact that re-modelling of Calcutta Airport was made at a huge cost with the idea that flights to different countries like U.S.A., U.K. U.S.S.R. and Canada etc. would start and in some cases resume from Calcutta; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the portions of the additional construction are now being utilised as godown and that large portion of constructions of different international airports in our countries are not being properly utilised?