

(b) Figures for consumption of tea in different States in India are not available. However total consumption of tea in India during 1976-77 and 1977-78 is estimated at 286 m. kgs. and 300 m.kgs. respectively. Total exports of tea from India during 1976 to 1978 are given below:—

Year (Calendar year)	Exports
1976 . . . . .	233.61 m.kgs.
1977 . . . . .	229.64 m. kgs.
1978 . . . . .	159.62 m. kgs.

Estimated number of labourers employed in tea industry in North East India during 1978 are not yet available. However, number of labourers for the year 1976 in this region is estimated at 8.12 lakhs.

**घटिया किस्म के माल का निर्यात तथा आयात करने वाले सार्वजनिक उपक्रम**

2727. श्री डी० ब्रजाल : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या 1978 में घटिया किस्म के माल का निर्यात अथवा आयात करने वाले प्रतिष्ठानों में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम भी हैं ?

वाणिज्य, नागरिक पूति तथा सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल) : सामग्री एकत्र की जा रही है। तथा पटल पर एक विवरण तथा समय रख दिया जाएगा।

#### Exemption from Import Duty on Port Equipments

2728. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that countries world over, except ours, exempt import duty on port equipments;

(b) if so, in view of the recent congestion at major ports of the country, whether Government propose to ex-

empt such equipments from payment of import duty;

(c) if so, when it is expected to grant exemption from payment of the duty; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Government is not aware whether all the countries in the world exempt import duty on port equipments;

(b) to (d) In terms of section 12 of the Customs Act, 1962, all goods imported into India are liable to customs duty at specified rates. The Central Government, however, considers on merit requests for exemption of specified goods or class of goods from payment of customs duty, as and when received.

#### Proposal for Opening Offices of Controller of Imports

2729. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for opening of a number of offices of the Controller of Imports in different parts of the country including one at Patna is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, places where such offices are likely to be opened; and

(c) expected time by which these are likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) Regional offices of the Imports and Exports Trade Control Organisation have since been opened at Jaipur, Gauhati, Patna and Agartala. Arrangements to set up such offices at Cuttack and Chandigarh are well under way.