

required during festival season and threatened strike by dock workers were equally important considerations.

(d) During the period of 3 months from 2-9-1978 to 2-12-1978, no import licences were issued as the import was allowed under Open General Licence.

(e) They were issued in accordance with the relevant Public Notice No. 91/78, dated 2-12-1978 by which imports could be made against contracts entered into earlier only against import licences issued by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. The particulars of Import Licences are published in Weekly Bulletins of Industrial Licences, Import Licences and Export Licences issued by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, copies of which are supplied to Parliament Library.

Implementation of Scheme for creating facility for term lending Institutions

8886 SHRI T. A. PAI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) has the Government implemented the scheme for creating a facility for term lending financial institutions and the public sector Banks to provide rupee-finances to cover costs of approved projects with a view to import capital goods as proposed in the Budget of 1978-79; and

(b) if so, what is the number of projects financed and the quantum of loans given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQARULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has already formulated a scheme of rupee-finance to cover import of capital goods, with a view to ensuring that non-availability of rupee-finance does not

hold up implementation of worthwhile schemes for which Government is willing to allocate foreign exchange. Under the scheme, scheduled banks have been permitted to grant term loans for the rupee equivalent to industrial concerns for periods upto 10 years at 11 per cent interest per annum for import of capital goods, where licence has been granted by Government.

(b) So far, assistance worth Rs. 856.24 lakhs has been sanctioned to 25 projects under this scheme.

Sterling Tea Companies

8887. SHRI SHRIKRISHNA SINGH: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of sterling tea companies which have been converted into Indian Companies with non-resident interests during the period from 15th July, 1977 to 31st January, 1979;

(b) the number of these companies which belong to monopoly and big business houses and the amount received by the Sterling Companies in these transactions and the details thereof, company-wise;

(c) the names of sterling companies whose applications for disposal of their tea estates are still pending before Government and what are the details thereof; and

(d) what are the names of the purchasers and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (d). The desired information is given in the statements laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4375/79].