

able regarding the amount of customs duty paid on import of drugs and medicines and the names of such drugs and medicines imported by the drug industry separately.

Dandekar Committee on Ban on Import of Harvester Combine

7396. SHRI MUKUNDA MONDAL:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dandekar Committee on Promotion of employment has recommended a ban on import of Harvester Combine; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) : (a) and (b). The report of the Expert Committee on tax Measures to Promote Employment (*popularly known as the Dandekar Committee*) containing their recommendations was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 1-7-1980. The recommendations of the Committee on the impact of mechanisation in agriculture, including harvester-combines, are contained in paragraphs 7.37 to 7.42 of the Report.

The recommendation is under examination.

Sericulture in Kerala State

7397. SHRI A. A. RAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the development programmes, envisaged for sericulture in Kerala State;

(b) whether Government are aware that farmers in some Districts of Kerala State are in dire need of technical know-how for producing silk from the silk worms; and

(c) the steps which are being taken to produce more cocoons especially from tapioca leaves which is plenty in Kerala State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Central Silk Board, under the administrative control of this Ministry, had set up a Project Research outpost at Trivandrum for studying the feasibility of introducing rearing of eri-worms on tapioca leaves

(b) As a result of extension work carried out by the Central Silk Board's Research Extension Centre at Coimbatore, a bordering Tamil Nadu district, Kerala farmers in the areas bordering Coimbatore are taking up mulberry silk-worm rearing. This Centre is providing them necessary technical guidance. The number of such rearers is very limited for the present.

(c) As already indicated the question of utilisation of tapioca leaves for silk-worm rearing is still in an experimental stage.

Purchase of Shares in Mackinnon Mackenzie and Company Limited

7398. DR. A. U. AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been approached to accord its sanction to the alleged purchase of shares in Mackinnon Mackenzie and Company Limited by an Indian Group from the foreign shareholders at a total cost of Rupee one only against equity face value of Rupee one crore:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any underhand dealing is suspected; and

(d) the action being taken to stop such malpractice and to bring the exchange racketeers to book?