

### Goods Lying in Bonded Warehouses of Customs in Delhi

5571. SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much goods are lying in bonded warehouse of Customs in Delhi;

(b) whether smuggled items or imported goods lying there find their way out and certain people used to get large quantities of such goods to sell them in black market; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to prevent such things and punish those responsible for pilferage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c) The total value of goods lying in Delhi, in the warehouses licensed under Chapter IX of the Customs Act 1962, is about Rs. 3.70 crores. The procedures for the custody, accounting and clearance, on payment of duty, of these goods have been working satisfactorily and there have been no reports of unauthorised removal of these goods. There has, however, recently been one case where some goods, a part of which was suspected to have been cleared from a bonded warehouse for delivery to diplomats, were seized for alleged violation of the Customs law. The total value of the goods seized in this case is about Rs. 72,000. Investigation in the case is in progress.

### Retrenchment Orders in Kudremukh Project

5572. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2500 skilled and unskilled workers at the Kudremukh project under HSCL are facing retrenchment and already the management served retrenchment notice on the workers;

(b) what prevents the HSCL absorbing the workers in permanent category; and

(c) whether HSCL workers of Kudremukh project made any representation before the Government against retrenchment and what is the reaction of Government towards the demand of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Consequent upon the completion of work awarded to HSCL on Kudremukh Project, 281 workers out of a total of 429 are likely to become surplus even after adjusting the remaining on other units/sites. No retrenchment notice has, however, been served on anyone so far.

(b) HSCL is already suffering from an overweight of surplus labour and it is not at all possible, specially in unskilled categories, to increase such burden. HSCL essentially is a construction company. As soon as the work on a particular site is over, the employees engaged thereon become surplus and have to be retrenched if

they cannot be transferred/absorbed at other sites.

(c) No, Sir.

**Target for Tea Production during 1980-81**

5573. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target of tea production in the year 1980-81;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to meet the growing domestic demand and retain the share in the world market; and

(c) the percentage of India's share of world tea market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The target for tea production in the year 1980-81 is 585 m. kgs.

(b) In order to meet the growing domestic demand as also to generate sufficient exportable surplus, measures to increase production through intensive cropping practices and by extension planting have been taken. Tea Board operates various incentive schemes to provide financial assistance to tea gardens for this purpose. It is also proposed to bring new areas under tea cultivation in non-traditional States/Union Territories. Steps taken to increase exports include abolition of export duty, reintroduction of the system of refund of additional excise duty on packet tea exports, allowing import of tea bagging machinery under OGL, reduction in import duty on tea

bagging machinery and enhancement in the rate of Cash Compensatory Support. In addition, Tea Board's offices abroad continue to undertake various promotional measures for our tea exports.

(c) The average percentage of India's share in the export market for five years ending 1978 is approximately 28%.

**Foreign Money Transaction by a Catholic Priest in Goa**

5574. SHRI V. N. GADGIL:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Enforcement Authorities have unearthed unlawful foreign money transaction by Fr. Protasia Soaves, a Catholic Priest from Goa, amounting to 60 lakhs of rupees;

(b) what is the source of this huge amount;

(c) whether he has been indulging in anti-national activities; and

(d) whether the money has been used for such activities particularly in the North Eastern region?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) Fr. Protasio Soares, a Catholic Priest, who was then attached to a Society at Pilar, Goa (popularly known as "Pilar Society"), visited U.S.A. twice between 1954 and 1959, for collection of funds for the Society. Out of the funds collected, Fr. Soares was alleged to have secreted away some amounts