

(b) have Government constituted a Committee of experts, including foreigners, to go into the detailed causes;

(c) whether any reports have been submitted by such experts Committee in this regard; and

(d) have Government published such reports for the use of general public?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) It has not been possible to predict and prevent Earthquakes.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Darjeeling Tea Companies

3583. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the stipulations proposed for Darjeeling Companies seeking aid from the projected Rs. 500 crore improvement fund;

(b) whether removal of weaknesses inherent in the structure such as problems of scale, lack of processing facilities etc. would form part of the rejuvenation programme;

(c) whether replanting, modernization and such other investments long in default would be compulsory condition of receiving the proposed aid; and

(d) what guarantees are being created to assure better for labourers (both permanent and casual) with improvement of their productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d). No such improvement fund has been created. Tea Board, however,

has formulated a 10 Year Development Programme for Extension, Planting, Replanting and Rejuvenation of tea bushes and modernisation of factories which is expected to significantly increase the production, productivity and economic viability of the Darjeeling tea gardens. It is expected that with the over-all improvement in the economic condition of the Darjeeling gardens, the level of wages and other amenities for labourers would also improve.

Proposal for setting up a Fashion Technology Institute in Tamil Nadu

3584. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of the proposal of setting up a Fashion Technology Institute involving possibly foreign collaboration, in Tamil Nadu for promoting production of quality cloth in the handloom sector both for domestic needs and export markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): Government is not aware of any proposal for setting up a Fashion Technology Institute involving foreign collaboration in Tamil Nadu.

However, proposals have been received from the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India, Bombay to establish a Fashion Forecast Club-cum-Library and also from the Apparels Export Promotion Council for setting up of a Fashion Design Institute. These are under consideration of Government.

Sericulture Industry in Orissa

3585. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa is planning to invest Rs. 70 crores to develop handloom and sericulture industry in the State: