

tax Administration, its rationalisation and improvement. The question of simplification of Direct Tax Laws will also be referred to them.

Transfer of office of CDA from Meerut to Chandigarh

3543. **SHRI BHEEKHABHAI:** Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a representation from All India Defence Accounts Association, Meerut Branch, Meerut Cantt. regarding transfer of the Office of CDA WC from Meerut to Chandigarh;

(b) if so, whether he has given a thought to the problems mentioned therein; and

(c) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to avoid the unnecessary expenditure involved in transfer of the Employees from Meerut to Chandigarh and to save the employees from the anticipated difficulties consequent to transfer of office of the CDA Western Command?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). All the aspects relevant to the shifting of the office of CDA, Western Command, from Meerut to Chandigarh, including those mentioned in the representation, had been duly considered at the time the decision was taken a few years ago.

Ministries using imported motor vehicles

3544. **SHRI RAM AWADH:** Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state:

(a) the Ministries and Government offices which are still using imported motor vehicles for their staff; and

(b) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b).

The information is being collected from the Ministers/Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Shifting of Bihar State unit of Jute Corporation of India from Calcutta to Bihar

3545. **SHRI D. L. BAITHA:** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Purnea, Saharsa and Katihar districts of Bihar State are chief growers of jute in the State;

(b) whether the Head Office of Jute Corporation of India is located at Calcutta and consequently proper and effective control is lacking as also growers' difficulties are not appreciated and solved quickly; and

(c) if reply to part (b) above in the affirmative, do Government propose considering the shifting of Bihar State Unit of the Head Office of Jute Corporation of India from Calcutta to either Purnea or Forbesganj, which are the main jute producing areas and important sale points in Bihar State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Although the Head Office of Jute Corporation of India is located at Calcutta, procurement operations in Bihar are effectively controlled through two Regional Offices situated in Purnea and Saharsa districts.

Crisis in Tea Industry

3546. **SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tea industry is facing difficulties in regard to supply of various inputs like coal, fertiliser and foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remove the difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). The supply of inputs to tea industry is under constant review by the Government and the Tea Board and remedial action is taken from time to time by taking up the matter with the concerned departments of the Government of India whenever necessary.

Tea Finance Corporation

3547. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDER BOSE ALLURI:

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

SHRI V.S. VIJYARA-GHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tea production is under serious threat due to inadequate finance;

(b) whether Government propose to consider the setting up a separate Tea Finance Corporation to meet the development needs of the tea industry; and

(c) details of immediate steps proposed by Government to make available finance to the industry from institutional agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) While there may be individual cases of hardships because of lack of finance, India achieved a higher production of about 575 M.Kgs. of tea in 1980 as compared to about 548 M.Kgs. in 1979.

(b) and (c). Government are examining a proposal to set up a Plantation Finance Corporation which will, *inter alia*, provide for the development needs of the tea industry.

The Reserve Bank of India constituted a Committee in October, 1980 to examine problems relating to both the short-term and long-term finance to tea industry. The Committee was required to submit its report within six months and its terms of reference include review of existing methods of financing the tea industry.

Exemption of Beedies from Levy of Central Excise Duty

3548. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received memoranda from the Beedi Co-operative Societies in Kerala requesting to exempt them from the levy of Central Excise Duty on Beedi or grant them an equal amount of subsidy to the extent of duty paid by them; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAJ SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b). The Government have received a memorandum from the Board of Directors of Beedi Workers Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. (Kerala Dinesh Beedi) in which they have requested that either the Society be exempted from the levy of Central Excise duty on beedies, or it may be helped by the grant of a subsidy equal to the amount of duty paid by it.

The request for exemption from payment of Central Excise duty on beedies manufactured by the Society has not been accepted. The Government has also no scheme to grant any relief in lieu of the Central Excise duty paid by the Society.