

Tax and Central Excise duty realised from the tea garden in North Bengal, to the extent available with the Government, is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the development works in backward areas around tea gardens is not directly related to the revenue realised from that area. The revenue realised by the Centre is shared with the State Governments in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commission made from time to time. State Governments in the Northern area raise resources for development works as a part of their plan programmes. In drawing their development programmes, they will no doubt take into account the State revenue as also the share of the State from taxes like the Income Tax and the Central Excise duty. There are also separate schemes which are either funded by States or based on central subvention. Full details of such development works in the Northern area will be available in plan documents.

(d) Government itself does not normally set up ancillary industries. However, adequate facilities and incentives are provided for the development of small and ancillary units by the private sector. In licensing new units, special care is taken to meet the requirements of backward states and states having special problems. Central Government gives a subsidy of 15 per cent for development of industries in backward areas. State Governments also provide facilities such as exemption from sales tax, infrastructural support, etc.

STC to work for export of processed Foods to Soviet Union

4494. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STC has been entrusted the work of export of processed foods to the Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the variety, quantity and quality as well as the cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). Processed food items are not canalised items for export. STC competes with private exporters for foreign orders on these items. However, STC has been able to enter into contracts with the USSR trading organisation for exports of fruit juices, canned fruits, mixed fruit jams of a total quantity of 7,900 M.T. valued at Rs. 476.22 lakhs for supply to the USSR during 1981-82.

Export of Rice

4495. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export rice to various countries during the current year;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) which are the countries to whom rice will be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Rice is to be exported under an overall ceiling from the surplus which would be anticipated and after setting apart the requirements of the Public Distribution System. Basmati rice is allowed under O.G.L.

(c) Exports can be made to any country with which India has trade relations.

Excise duty on Polyester Resin

4496. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been urged to reduce excise duty on polyester resin; and