

deficit is provisionally placed at Rs. 1522.73 crores.

(b) and (c). A series of export promotion measures have been taken by the Government to boost exports. All possible efforts are being made to maximise our exports, product-wise and market-wise both in developing and developed countries.

(d) and (e). From time to time, committees and Task Forces are appointed by the Government to study the prospects in export trade. Periodic meetings are also held with the various Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards, etc. to identify the constraints on exports and to evolve suitable remedial measures therefor.

Demand of Export Manufacturing units for Sale of their Products in Domestic Market

1053. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand of export manufacturing units for selling their products in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

In so far as such units in free trade zones are concerned, the Government have decided to allow such units to sell 25% of the production in domestic tariff area against valid import licences.

This decision is not applicable to 100% Export Oriented Units outside the zone.

Import and Production of High Density Polyethylene

1054. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several large international producers have pruned the prices of high density polyethylene to dump it into the Indian market thereby making it difficult for the indigenous industry to face the competition; and

(b) how do Government propose to meet the problem of rising imports and falling production of HDPE?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). While there has been a representation to this effect from the single Indian manufacturer of this item the available data does not indicate any fall in production as a result of the import policy. Arrangements exist for monitoring the position of imports vis-a-vis indigenous production and demand with a view to taking action as may be found necessary.

Direct sale of Indian tobacco Products Overseas

1055. SHRI BHIKHU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Tobacco Board had sponsored the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade study for promotion of direct sale of Indian tobacco Products Overseas;

(b) whether the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) had submitted a preliminary report on consumption of cigarettes and cigarette smoking into West Asian countries; and

(c) the steps proposed to increase marketing facilities, production of low-nicotine cigarettes and bidis and to increase exports to the Gulf, with details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Report of the team is awaited.

Import of raw materials by Tyre Industry

1056. **SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tyre industry was allowed to import raw materials available at International prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Tyre industry requires various raw materials such as natural/synthetic rubber, carbon black, synthetic fabrics and rubber chemicals. Import of these is regulated as per policy in force. For export production, there is also a provision for import of raw materials without payment of customs duty, the details of which are given in Appendix 19 of Import & Export Policy (Vol. I) for 1982-83. Copy of the Import and Export Policy is available in Parliament library.

Loans disbursed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

1057. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan that has been disbursed by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development since its inception on 12th July, 1982 till date; and

(b) whether this Bank has been fully staffed now in the face of reluctance of trained staff in the Agricultural Credit Survey Department of R.B.I. to come over to this Bank?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has disbursed a sum of Rs. 57.54 crores as term loans and another sum of Rs. 504.57 crores as short term loans to the State Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks since its inception on 12th July, 1982 till 27th of September, 1982.

(b) The NABARD may appoint such number of staff as it may consider necessary for the efficient performance of its functions. The initial staff of NABARD comprised staff working in the erstwhile Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC) and the Agricultural Credit Department and the Rural Planning and Credit Cell of Reserve Bank of India, whose services were transferred to it under the provisions of the NABARD Act. No reluctance of any such staff for their continuance in the new institution has come to the notice of the Government or the NABARD. Further, the employees so transferred have a right under the Act to exercise option electing to go back to RBI within six months of the establishment of the Bank.

Crisis in Darjeeling Tea Industry

1058. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:**

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Darjeeling Tea Industry is currently facing an acute crisis;

(b) if so, the nature of the crisis;

(c) steps taken to meet the situation; and

(d) the latest position in regard to Tea Board's proposal for rejuvenation of the old and sick tea gardens?