

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?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Government is aware that the Tea Industry in Darjeeling has special problems.

(b) The problems include rising cost of production, low yield, deficit in working capital, accumulated debt balance and interest accrued thereon.

(c) The Tea Board's financial assistance under its three major schemes is available to Darjeeling Tea Industry also. With effect from 1-9-1980 the rates of subsidy for re-planting in respect of hilly areas in this tea growing region has been increased to Rs. 15,000 per hectare.

(d) The Darjeeling Rejuvenation Scheme is now awaiting clearance of the Expenditure Finance Committee.

Decision to reduce export of rice

1059. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce the export of rice for the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the foreign exchange earnings for the last five years from export of rice?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The export of basmati rice is under Open General Licence. Export of non-basmati varieties of rice is permitted in limited quantities only through Food Corporation of India.

(c) The foreign exchange earnings from the export of rice for the last five years are as follows:—

Year	Qty. (000 tonne)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1977-78	52.4	11.47
1978-79	110.5	38.71
1979-80	515.3	123.37
1980-81	726.7	223.86
*1981-82	791.4	342.67

*(provisional)

Source: DGCIS

Imbalances and benefits conferred as a result of lacunae in FERA

1060. SHRI T. S. NEGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn regarding the imbalances and benefits conferred as a result of lacunae in FERA vide *India Today* of 15 August, 1982;

(b) whether Government propose to take any corrective steps; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The article on FERA is an attempt to assess the impact of FERA process. On balance, the conclusion reached is that FERA, has been a useful achievement. Some of the issues