

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