

(a) the reasons why India still patronizes Tea Councils in the U.K., U.S.A. and Canada in view of her dwindling tea exports to those countries over the years while countries like China, Argentina and Mozambique have raised their exports without contributing to the Tea Council as members ; and

(b) whether the performance of the Tea Councils in Ireland, West Germany, France, Australia and New Zealand are better than those in the U.K., Canada and the U.S.A. in expanding exports of tea to those countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) The Councils have been set up in some major tea importing countries with a view to promote consumption of tea as a beverage vis-a-vis other beverages and soft drinks. As the world's largest producer and exporter of tea, India continues to participate in these Tea Councils. In addition to this generic promotion of tea, unimational promotion of Indian teas is also undertaken by the Tea Board and its overseas offices.

The factors which have affected India's exports to the UK, USA and Canada, however, are not linked to the generic promotion of tea through the respective Tea Councils.

(b) The Tea Councils of Australia and New Zealand have not been functioning for a number of years. In respect of Ireland and West Germany, it is a fact that Indian teas hold the dominant position of the market and our exports to France are also improving.

Shortage of Small Coins as a Result of Shutting Down Hyderabad Mint

1110. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) is there any link between the acute

shortage of coins all over the country and the shutdown of the Hyderabad mint ;

(b) if so, what was the justification for shutting down the said mint ; and

(c) if there is no link, the reasons for such acute shortage of coins being experienced all over the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) Complaints of shortage of small coins are being received from many parts of the country. However, the Hyderabad Mint has not been shut-down and continues to produce coins.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) Complaints of shortage of small coins which are now being received in the country are due to the constraints in the capacity of the Mints to meet the full requirements of such coins. Complaints have also been received about hoarding of these coins in certain parts of the country, for which State Governments have been advised to take necessary action.

Misuse of Advance Import Licences for Polyester Filament yarn and Acrylic Fibre

1111. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH: SHRI TRILOK CHAND : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in a number of cases advance import licences for polyester filament yarn and acrylic fibre were obtained on false documents and that the imported raw material was sold in the black market;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what action has been taken against the importers concerned?