

(c) if so, the steps taken to remove such disparities ; and

(d) if not the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) New Bank of India has reported that there is no separate seniority for Head Office Officers, District Headquarters officers and Field officers and there is a common seniority for all officers scale-wise.

(b) New Bank of India has reported that it is not correct that junior officers in Head Office and District Headquarters offices got promotion while officers with the same level of service in the field did not get promotion.

(c) and (d) In view of the position as stated above, these questions do not arise.

Encroachment on Government Land at Colaba, Bombay

9920. SMT. PRAMILA DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :—

(a) whether there has been encroachment by private builders on land belonging to Government at Colaba, Bombay recently ;

(b) if so, whether the land occupied by private parties has been regularised ; and

(c) whether any complaint has been made against this sale to private parties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

MMTC to Enter Third Country Trading

9921. SHRI P.M. SAYEED :

SHRI B.V. DESAI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government in a major policy change decided to permit Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to enter into third country trading ; and

(b) if so, whether the major stress of

the Corporation will be in the sphere of de-canalised items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) M.M.T.C. have made a proposal for third country trading but no policy direction has been given to the Corporation so far.

Hoarding of Tea by M/s. Brooke Bond India Ltd.

9922. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Brooke Bond India Ltd., had in its stock 14,000 tonnes of tea as on 30 June, 1983 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the hoarding of tea by Brooke Bond India Ltd. has directly resulted in consumer price increase of 30-50 per cent in the market ; and

(c) whether Government Propose to impose price control on packaged tea to avoid monopolistic hold of multinational on consumer price of packaged tea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) According to information received from M/s. Brooke Bond India Ltd., the company had a closing stock of tea in the form of original tea, blended tea and packaged tea including tea for export to the tune of 14,325 tonnes as on 30th June, 1983 which was lower than the stock in June, 1982. The company sells most of its packet teas directly to the retailer and carries stocks in more than 1300 sale depots throughout the country as well as in its 7 factories and distribution godowns. Stock levels indicated above represent normal working stocks equivalent to two month's sales of the company. On the basis of the declared stocks, it cannot be concluded that there was any attempt at hoarding of tea by M/s. Brooke Bond India Ltd.

(c) Government has no proposal to impose statutory price control on packaged tea.