

**Steps Taken to Increase
Production of Tea**

4430. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to increase the production of tea;

(b) if so, the name of the sponsored schemes undertaken;

(c) the quantum of Central assistance earmarked in the Sixth Plan for the effective implementation of these schemes; and

(d) the details of the responses made by the tea producing States for the successful implementation of the above programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RAJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) In order to step up production of tea, the Tea Board is currently implementing various development schemes such as Tea Plantation Finance Scheme, Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment Hire Purchase Scheme, Replantation and Rejuvenation Subsidy Scheme and other Developmental Schemes for the small growers.

(c) A sum of Rs. 41 crores has been earmarked for development of Tea Industry in the Sixth Plan period.

(d) Assistance is provided directly by the Tea Board to the tea estates and not through State Govts. Production has registered an increase in the traditional tea growing states.

**Proposal to Merge Public Sector
Undertaking**

4431. SHRI D.S.A. SIVAPRAKASAM : Will the Minister of

FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4011 on 16 December, 1983 regarding proposal to merge public Sector Undertakings and state :

(a) whether any proposal to merge any of Public Sector Undertakings has since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. (KRISHNA) : (a) Except to the extent indicated in the reply to Question Number 4011 on 16.12.1983, no other proposals have been finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

Joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission

4432. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a final decision on the main team for the Joint Indo-Soviet space mission in April has since been taken;

(b) who was the Indian expert associated with the selection ;

(c) which of the two Indian cosmonauts presently undergoing training in the U.S.S.R., has been selected; and

(d) whether efforts will be made to utilise fully the knowledge and experience acquired by the other Indian cosmonaut during the training in that country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The composition of the main and standby teams has been decided.