

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Further Payment to Government of West Bengal

229. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 29th January, 1984 wherein it has been stated that Central Government have instructed the Reserve Bank of India to stop making any further payments to the West Bengal Government, if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether such orders have also been given for any other State of the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) West Bengal had the highest overdraft of Rs. 187 crores. Pending finalisation of a plan of action for reducing the overdraft, the State Government was advised not to exceed the level of Rs. 187 crores. The Reserve Bank of India was advised to stop making any further payments to the West Bengal if its overdraft exceeded Rs. 187 crores for seven continuous days.

(b) No such advice has been given in respect of the other States.

(c) All the States who were in overdrafts, had agreed to give plans of action for reducing/eliminating the overdraft by the end of the current financial year.

Reduction of Excise Duty on Tea

230. SHRI PIYUSH TIRKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Government have reduced excise duty on tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of the profits made by the tea garden owners after this out in excise duty; and

(d) what percentage of the "new profit" has been or is being spent for the welfare of the tea garden workers ?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) With effect from 31.12.83 the effective rate of basic Central Excise duty on Darjeeling Tea has been reduced from Rs. 1.25 per kg. to Rs. 0.20 per kg. on tea produced in certain areas of Darjeeling District. This has been done to help revive the Darjeeling Tea industry from its sickness.

(c) and (d) It is too early to make any estimate of the likely profits by tea garden owners after this cut in Central Excise duty. However, it is expected that there will be marginal improvement in the viability of these tea gardens.

12 hrs.

(Interruptions)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Situation in Punjab leading to communal violence and confrontation between the CRPF and sections of the people, both in Punjab and Haryana

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी (हिंसार) : पंजाब में सरकार कत्ल को रोके ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (नई दिल्ली) : बध्दक्ष महोदय, पंजाब में हत्याएं जारी हैं ।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : we have given notice of adjournment motion.

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी : पंजाब में कत्ले आम हो रहा है ।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The situation in Panjab and Haryana is extremely bad. I have given notice of adjournment motion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South) : There is no administration in Panjab and Haryana now,