

A. C. GEORGE) : (1) Coffee Board has at the request of State Government surveyed the hill ranges of Dhanknikottai Taluk in Tamil Nadu and submitted a technical report on the suitability of the ranges for Coffee cultivation.

(2) Coffee Board has also offered technical comments at the request of State Government on the feasibility of starting coffee plantations in Kolli Hills in Tamil Nadu.

(3) Technical Officers of the Board are also participating in the implementation of the State Government's Scheme for Development of Coffee Plantations in Yercaud Hills in Tamil Nadu.

The Coffee Board is also operating the following Schemes for development of Coffee Plantations in the country including Tamil Nadu :—

- (a) Scheme for grant of long-term loans for intensive cultivation of small registered coffee holdings ,
- (b) Scheme for grant of long-term loans for replanting, open to all registered estates ;
- (c) Scheme for grant of short-term loans for yearly working capital, open to estates not exceeding 100 acres in extent ; and
- (d) Scheme for supply of equipment and machinery on Hire Purchase terms open to all registered estates.

Exploring New Avenues for Coffee Export

1719. SHRI B. NARAYANAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the steps taken for exploring new avenues for coffee exports ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : Exports of coffee from India are governed by the provisions of

the International Coffee Agreement, to which India is a signatory. Under the Agreement, annual quotas are set for exports to quota countries every year depending upon the world import requirements. Exports of coffee to these countries have therefore to be limited to the annual quotas set by the International Coffee Organisation for India for each coffee year (October/September). There is thus a limitation placed on exports of coffee from India to quota countries.

2. Exports to non-quota countries could be made outside the quotas so set and no specific limitations are fixed for such exports by the I. C. O. By progressively increasing the Trade Plan provisions for exports of coffee to non-quota group of countries which are non-traditional markets, exports to which are not covered by the limitation imposed by the ICO, there has been a progressive increase in exports of coffee from India to these countries.

3. It is proposed to send a delegation for the U.K. and European countries to explore possibilities of increasing our direct exports to three foreign exchange markets and also to some non quota countries with which we could possibly increase our trade in coffee.

Export subsidies for Hides, Skins and Exporters

1720. SHRI SAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to face squarely the method of "unpredictable prices and quantum" adopted by China to depress the world market prices of Indian skin and leather ; and

(b) the programme of export subsidies offered to Indian exporters of hides, skins and leather ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). With a view to increasing the export of hides and skins as well as finished leather and leather

manufactures the government have taken the following steps :

- (1) Two Export Promotion Councils (i) the leather Export Promotion Council at Madras and (ii) the Export Promotion Council for Finished Leather and Leather Manufactures at Kanpur, have been set up. These two councils undertake promotional activities such as sponsoring trade delegations and sales and study teams to visit markets abroad participation in exhibitions abroad, collecting market intelligence and guiding new exporters.
- (2) Basic raw materials required for this industry, such as raw hides and skins and tanning barks and extracts, are permitted for import under Open General Licence.
- (3) "Leather and Leather goods" are one of the 59 priority industries. Units in this industry can, therefore, secure import licences on the basis of actual consumption.
- (4) Import licence is allowed against exports of various leather and leather products, to replenish the import content in such export products.
- (5) There is provision for drawback of duty on export of Blue Chrome tanned goat skins and vegetable tanned leather.

Inflated Telephone Bills for Trunk Calls between Delhi and Bombay due to Faulty Meters

1721. SHRI FATESINGH RAO
GAFKWAD :

DR. KARNI SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the erratic readings of the meters, recording trunk calls between Delhi and Bombay,

resulting inflated telephone bills of the subscribers ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to rectify the same ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) No please.

(b) Does not arise.

Location of Calcutta T. V. Station

1722. SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land for locating the Television Station in Calcutta has been obtained from the Calcutta Corporation;

(b) if not, whether the project will be dropped and shifted to somewhere outside Calcutta ; and

(c) the plan estimate of the project ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) Negotiations with Calcutta Corporation are in progress. Possession of land has not been taken as yet.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Rs. 190 59 lakhs.

Meeting of Indian Council of Institution of Rubber (London) held in Calcutta

1723. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether annual general meeting of the Indian Council of the Institution of the Rubber (London) was recently held at the National Test House, Calcutta ;

(b) if so, whether the setting up of another synthetic rubber plant and limitations