

The above applies to departmental staff. Contractors will make their own arrangements for their staff/labour.

#### Setting up of Agencies for implementation of Indo-Bangladesh Trade Agreement

3897. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary agencies and institutions for conducting trade under Indo-Bangladesh Trade pact have been set up;

(b) if so, the nature and location of such agencies and institutions and items and volumes of trade and commercial transactions entrusted to them;

(c) the extent of trade and commerce already in operation between the two countries;

(d) whether licences have been issued to any private agencies for this purpose; if so their names and other particulars; and

(e) when fresh is likely to be imported in Calcutta and its expected volume per month?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). For certain items covered by the Limited Payments Arrangement with Bangladesh, the two Governments have agreed that trade exchanges will be handled by specified agencies. Details of these agencies together with the volume of trade to be handled by them are given in the statements referred to in reply to Unstarred Question No. 6282 answered on the 16th May, 1972. Imports and export of commodities which are not covered by the Limited Payments Arrangement are allowed in accordance with the import, export and foreign exchange regulations and other procedures including customs formalities, as may be in force from time to time.

(c) The first priority has been one of meeting the urgent requirements of rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bangladesh. Resources, particularly those of transport, have, therefore, been used so far mainly to cater to these needs. Contracts have already been concluded for export of coal,

tobacco and cement and for the import of furnace oil, newsprint and some jute. It is expected that regular trade in these and in fish and textiles will gather momentum in the coming months.

(d) Information about import/export licences granted, the names of the parties and the value of the licences, is published in the "Weekly Bulletin of Industrial Licences, Import Licences and Export Licences", copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(e) Imports of fresh fish from Bangladesh are expected to commence in about a month's time. It is proposed to import about Rs. 1.5 crore worth of fish every month during the remaining term of the trade agreement with Bangladesh. About 70% of the fish imported from Bangladesh is proposed to be utilised for supply to Calcutta.

#### Borooh Committee on Tea Problems

3898. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Borooh Committee was set up to go into the problems of Tea Estates in North Eastern region of India;

(b) if so, the broad nature of its findings and recommendations; and

(c) whether the Tea Board was asked to prepare a scheme for the purpose and if so, the salient features of the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) A Committee on Tea Industry was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri P. C. Borooh to undertake a comprehensive review of the economic conditions and problems of the tea industry in all its aspects and make recommendations regarding the measures required to be taken for its appropriate development on the right lines during the Fourth Plan Period.

(b) and (c). A copy of the Report of the Committee containing *inter alia* a summary of conclusions and recommendations was placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 29th August, 1969. These recommendations were examined in consultation with Tea Board and decisions taken by the Gov-

ernment on the various recommendations were announced *vide* Ministry of Foreign Trade Resolution No. 2/10/Plant (A)/70-(BC) dated the 24th July, 1970, a copy of which was placed on the Table of Lok Sabha on 2-9-1970. Action on the points arising out of the decisions is being pursued with Tea Board.

### Increase in Coffee Prices

3899. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coffee Board has recommended increase in coffee prices; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the decision taken on the recommendation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). On detailed examination of a Report by a Government Cost Accounts Officer on the cost of production of coffee submitted to Government in March, 1970 and referred to the Coffee Board for comments, the Board found that the cost of production worked out to Rs. 3.48 per point and recommended to Government in November, 1970 that this may be recognised as the cost of production and that the minimum release price be fixed accordingly. Taking into consideration the various factors that go into the cost of production and the recommendation of the Board, Government decided to allow the board to fix the minimum release price of coffee at Rs. 3.48 per point, as against the then existing minimum release price of Rs. 3.10 per point which had been in force from April, 1969.

### Survey of Western Ghats

3900. SHRI RAM PRAKASH :

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH  
RAO :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a detailed survey of Western Ghats to assess the potential for irrigation and power generation; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal and the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) and (b). Irrigation development is a State subject and projects for this purpose are planned, investigated and constructed by State Governments. The total irrigation potential of the West flowing rivers south of the Tapi river is roughly assessed as 58 lakh acres. Projects already in operation or under construction will exploit about 18.7 lakhs acres of the potential. A list of these projects is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3544/72.] The State Governments have proposed an outlay of about Rs. 38 crores during the Fourth Plan on the schemes under construction.

State Governments have already prepared new schemes to benefit another 5 lakh acres. They are also investigating further projects and will undertake them as and when investigations are complete and resources become available for their implementation.

### Loss of export market for Jute in Australia and U.S.A.

3901. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for losing export markets for Indian jute in Australia and the United States; and

(b) the proposals before Government to regain the markets.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The main reasons for decline in exports of jute goods to U.S.A. and Australia upto 1970-71 were (i) competition from erstwhile East Pakistan, (ii) competition from synthetics and (iii) introduction of bulk handling methods.

(b) Exports can be improved by reducing our cost of production and evolution of lighter fabrics which will be competitive in price with synthetics. The yield of jute has to be increased from present low levels and research intensified for new fabrics. These matters are constantly engaging Government's attention.