

various Ministries/Departments and Union Territories is proceeding apace. As information in regard to the existing scales of pay and other particulars necessary for notifying the revised scales of pay is to be obtained from the various Ministries/Departments, who in turn have also to consult their attached and sub-ordinate offices, it is not possible to indicate any firm time limit for notifying the revised pay-scales in respect of all the remaining categories of employees. Every effort is, however, being made to notify these scales as quickly as possible.

Assessment of Cooch Behar Refugee Service for Income Tax

7344. SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cooch Behar Refugee Service has already been assessed by the Income Tax Officer, Cooch Behar, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the year from which the assessment started and the amount realised; and

(c) whether the Income Tax Authorities at Cooch Behar have received relevant details as to their means for acquiring money, proper bank receipts, spending and giving away of money to various individuals and other relating data and if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). Enquiries made so far reveal that Cooch Behar Refugee Service has not been found to be liable to pay income-tax for the calendar year 1971. Enquiries are being made in respect of subsequent years.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House as early as possible.

Misuse of Import Licences

7345. SHRI HEMENDRA SINGH BANERA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that while Import licences are issued by the Central Authorities, there is no Central Agency having inspecting and investigating powers regarding their misuse;

(b) whether it is proposed that the inspection and investigation regarding misuse of Import Licences above a certain value, will be conducted by a Central Agency; and

(c) if so, the particulars thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. The Directors of Industries in the States and other sponsoring authorities are required to watch the proper utilisation of the import licences. Complaints received by the Central Government are enquired into by the State Government agencies and/or the C.B.I. according to the gravity of the offence.

Cost of production of Tea Per Kilo

7346. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average cost of production of tea per kilo touches Rs. 5.50 in Kerala and the producers get about Rs. 5 to 6 per kilogram while consumers pay between Rs. 10 to 12; and

(b) if so, whether Government are going to announce a support price for tea which would ensure the producer of an adequate return, declare the tea industry to be a protected one and to take over 'sick' Estates under Government control?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Average cost of production of tea in Kerala estimated by the United Planters Association of Southern India worked out to Rs. 5.18 per kg. in 1971-72 against average price of Rs. 6.14 per kg. fetched by Kerala teas in Cochin Auctions in 1971. Information on prices paid by consumers for Kerala tea is not readily available.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Exchange earned by Export of Beef

7348. DR. KARNI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the amount of foreign exchange expected to be earned annually from beef export?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): No foreign exchange earning can be expected as there is a complete ban on the export of beef.

Price of Tea

7349. DR. KARNI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of increase in the prices of all foodstuffs, including coffee and cocoa all over the world, the price of tea of which India and Sri Lanka are principal exporters, has registered a fall; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this strange phenomenon and the steps proposed to be taken singly or jointly with Sri Lanka not to allow the prices of tea to fall?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) International price of tea as reflected in the tea prices in London Auctions obtained

during 1973, have tended to rise as compared with prices in 1972.

(b) In the discussions held between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo in February, 1974, the need for joint programme for improving realisation on exports of tea was accepted by both countries.

Decline in Export of Chemicals, Soaps and Cosmetics

7350. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of exports in terms of foreign exchange in respect of Pharmaceutical and chemical products during April, 1973 to February, 1974;

(b) how far does it compare with the corresponding period of the last year;

(c) whether there have been any decline in the exports value of soaps, synthetic detergents, cosmetics and toiletries despite the increased exports of synthetic detergents and hydrogenated castor oil compared to the corresponding period of last year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount of loss in foreign exchange?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). The export figures available for the period April to September, 1973 for Pharmaceutical and chemical products as compared with the corresponding period of the last year are as follows:—

April-Sept., 1972 .. Rs. 1876.79 lakhs

April-Sept., 1973 .. Rs. 1718.52 lakhs

(c) and (d). The export of soaps, perfumery, cosmetics, dentifrices and