

**Foreign exchange for import of raw-cotton, synthetic fibre and edible oils**

493. SHRI S M BANERJEE Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have decided to have a fresh package programme which includes release of foreign exchange for the import of raw-cotton, synthetic fibre and edible oils, and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH)

(a) and (b) To bridge the gap between supply and demand of cotton and also to bring down the prices of edible oils and vanaspati Government have decided to import raw cotton, synthetic fibres and edible oils to the extent necessary

**Acquisition of Properties of Smugglers**

494 SHRI ANNASAHAB GOTKHINDE Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state

(a) the names of smugglers and foreign exchange manipulators whose properties have been confiscated and/or on whom notices have been served for confiscation of their properties after 12th March 1976 under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act and

(b) estimated value of their properties and what further action has been taken against those on whom the notices were previously served?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE)

(a) The Statement furnishing the names of the smugglers and foreign exchange manipulators (and of their relatives and associates) on whom

notices under Section 6 of the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976 have been served after 12-3-1976 asking them to show cause why the properties mentioned in the said notices should not be forfeited to the Government of India is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No LT-11065/76] No properties have so far been confiscated under the above-said Act

(b) The estimated value of their properties covered by the notices under Section 6 would be Rs 1085 crores. In many of the cases where notices were served earlier, hearings have been given to the persons affected and orders of forfeiture will be passed in accordance with law, where warranted.

**Tea Plantations and Gardens in Kangra and Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)**

496 SHRI RAJDEO SINGH Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased state

(a) whether Government are not attending to tea plantations and gardens in Kangra and Mandi (districts of Himachal Pradesh) in the same manner as they are doing for sick gardens in West Bengal and Assam,

(b) whether the tea produced in Kangra and Mandi is of very poor quality and is not marketable and

(c) if so the reasons for ignoring Kangra and Mandi Tea Plantations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH)

(a) Action can be taken under the Tea (Amendment) Act 1976, against tea plantations and gardens reported closed/sick in any tea growing State

(b) Although relatively poor in quality, the teas of Kangra and Mandi are marketable

(c) Does not arise