

SHRI BASUMATARI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is planning to export Basmati rice abroad ;

(b) if so, to which countries and in what quantities, separately and how much foreign exchange is estimated to be earned therefrom per year ; and

(c) the reasons for exporting rice in view of its dearth in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible at this stage to say as to which countries and in what quantities separately basmati rice will be exported. Subject to availability, it is proposed to export about 20,000 to 30,000 metric tons of superior basmati rice during 1969. The main markets for basmati rice usually are East Africa, Kuwait, Muscat, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and U. K. It is difficult to make a precise estimate of the foreign exchange to be earned per year through these exports. But from the trend of prices obtained so far it is expected that about £ 104 to £ 114 will be earned per tonne during 1969.

(c) Apart from the foreign exchange earned by such exports, the export of superior basmati is being undertaken in order to keep in touch with markets abroad to which larger exports of rice could be planned when the country becomes surplus in rice. The quantities exported when compared to the total production and consumption in the country are quite small and very much larger quantities of coarse rice are being imported from abroad at comparatively lower prices. Consequently, the export of this quantity of superior basmati is not likely to have any significant effect on the availability of rice within the country.

Rationalisation of Tea Industry

2016. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH
SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been

drawn to the recommendation of the group on tea industry appointed by the National Commission on Labour that the process of rationalisation now going on should be slowed down, as it has resulted in the reduction of employment ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that according to the statistics published by Tea Board, the total number of workers in the tea industry has gone down from 10,17,989 in 1957 to 8,18,783 in 1964 ; and

(c) the steps government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) to (c). Government understand that the Study Group has submitted a report to the National Commission on Labour. Government is not seized of this matter now and will consider it on receipt of the recommendations of the Commission.

Hungarian Collaboration for Manufacture of Microwave Communications Equipments

2017. SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION, AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has sought Hungarian collaboration in the manufacture of certain industrial products i.e. microwave communications equipments ; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the plans finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The Government of India have not sought Hungarian collaboration for the manufacture of microwave communications equipment.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Army Postal Service

2018. SHRI MAYAVAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ex-