

of the this scheme. By and large tea cultivation and tea processing in India are carried out on modern techniques. However some other countries have modernised to a greater extent in certain aspects such as mechanical harvesting and mechanical cultivation and spray of insecticides, but this is not an unmixed blessing, because it may, and does affect the quality.

Export of leopard skin

9667. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exports of Leopard Skins allowed as pre-ban commitments were strictly against the irrevocable Letters of Credit in accordance with the rules of Handbook of Export Trade Control or weightage was given to the stocks held by the exporters :

(b) if so, in how many cases and the details thereof ;

(c) whether before entertaining the requests of the exporters, the appeal procedure laid down was strictly followed ; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to investigate the whole matter through the Vigilance Department or any other agency ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Weightage was given to the stocks held by the exporters on production of evidence of irrevocable commitment of exports made with foreign buyers.

(b) Out of the applications received for exports against pre-ban commitments, two cases viz ; M/s. Indo-Foreign Commercial Agency, Delhi and M/s. Godhwani Bros. Delhi were considered to be firm commitments made prior to imposition of the ban and as such permission was granted after due consideration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Visit by Delegation of Indian Industrialists to Latin American Countries

9668. SHRI TULSIDAS DASAPPA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation comprising of leading Indian Industrialists is currently touring Latin American countries to explore possibilities of enlarging India's trade and Commerce with the continent ;

(b) whether the delegation has been sponsored by Government ;

(c) the names of members of the delegation ; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange granted to each delegate ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation has been sponsored by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in consultation with the Government. An officer of the Ministry of Foreign Trade has been included as a member of the delegation.

(c) A list of the members of the delegation is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT—1160/69].

(d) The Reserve Bank was advised to release foreign exchange to the individual members at the appropriate rate and also foreign exchange for meeting incidental expenses such as taxi fares, cables etc. Besides the release to the individual members, a sum of Rs. 25,000 was released to the leader of the delegation towards entertainment.

Voluntary price regulation scheme

9669. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI : SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :