

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) It is too early to have a Government estimate made of the cotton crop for the cotton year 1969-70. However indications are that the crop this year is likely to be of a higher level than that of last year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The present support prices are considered to be adequate.

Director of National Test House, Calcutta

1469. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation, signed or otherwise, in regard to the Director, National Test House, Alipore, Calcutta about the efforts made by him to get extension, although he has reached the superannuation age of 58;

(b) whether the representation makes a complaint that he is harassing his subordinates and abusing his position for securing personal material advantage, etc.;

(c) if so, the nature of the complaint;

(d) whether Government have investigated/will investigate into these complaints; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) to (c) . Yes, three representations were received. In two of the pseudonymous letters, it was alleged that the Director, National Test House, Calcutta, was trying to secure extension of service. It was also alleged that he was indulging in gross nepotism and favouritism in respect of certain transfers and promotions in the National Test House, Calcutta and Bombay.

In the third letter which was anonymous, it was alleged that the treatment of

the Director towards the subordinate staff was intolerable and that he was making use of Government officials for his private work.

(d) and (e) . As the letters were found to be pseudonymous/anonymous, no action was taken on them. The Director, National Test House has since retired from service with effect from 31. 10. 1969.

**Kashmir an Independent Entity in "National Geographic Globe, 1966"**

1470. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a publication "National Geographic Globe, 1966" kept in the American Cultural Centre, Patna, in which Kashmir has been shown as an independent entity;

(b) if so, whether the American Cultural Centre has been asked to remove this book and other such publications, displaying wrong maps in American-run Centres, U.S.I.S. Libraries, etc, and

(c) if not, Government policy in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) . The matter was taken up with the U. S. Information Services in New Delhi. Government has been informed that the Globe of the world prepared by the National Geographic Society which is not an official Agency of the U. S. Government, was removed in July, 1969.

**Fall in prices of Jute Goods**

1471. SHRI B. P. MANDAL :  
SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been steep fall in the price of jute adversely affecting the growers and thus jeopardising the prospect of future produce; and

(b) whether Government contemplate to get themselves seized of the problem and save the growers from incurring heavy losses in future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Reduction in Export Duty on Tea**

1472. SHRI R. K. AMIN :  
SHRI G. C. DESAI :  
SHRI K. M. Koushik :  
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Commerce Minister, Shri Manubhai Shah, recently urged Government to provide immediate relief in export duty to the tea industry to restore its competitive position *vis-a-vis* Ceylon and East Africa;

(b) whether there have also been demands from various quarters in support of the plea put forward by Shri Manubhai Shah sometime back;

(c) whether Government have assessed the total loss in revenue accruing from the Tea industry consequent upon imposition of export duty on tea in the wake of devaluation; and

(d) the steps which Government propose to take to restore the Tea industry to its original position in the world market ?

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

(b) There have also been demands from the Tea Industry for giving relief in export and excise duties on Tea.

(c) There has been no loss of revenue due to imposition of export duty on tea.

but there was reduction in revenue from this source because of reduction in the rate of export duty on tea made from time to time since the devaluation of the rupee.

(d) Substantial relief in export and excise duties has already been given in October 1968 and in March 1969. The position, however, is kept under constant review.

International measures to stabilise tea prices have been under discussion under the auspices of the FAO. In a meeting of the tea exporting countries held in Mauritius, it has been agreed that 90 million lbs. of tea will be withdrawn from the estimated exports in 1970. A consultative committee on tea has been formed consisting of producing and major importing countries to evolve regulatory measures to give effect to this decision and to study further measures necessary to stabilise prices.

**Talks with Philippines Foreign Minister**

1473. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :  
SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether, during the visit of Foreign Minister of Philippines to New Delhi, plans for Asian security and economic and political stability of the region were discussed;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals discussed and outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in pursuance of these decisions ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c). Matters of mutual interest to India and the Philippines were discussed during the visit of the Foreign Minister of Philippines to New Delhi. Both sides laid stress on steady economic growth and political stability. The Government of India assured the Philippines Foreign Minister of India's abiding interest in South East Asia and the need for peace and stability in this region.