

ment to meet the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports and two and half months to get even acknowledgments for applications submitted; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to make the lot of the film producers a little easier seeing that our films earn foreign exchange worth crores of rupees every year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) No, Sir. There are no delays in issuing release orders for raw films by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay where the application is complete in all respects. Recently, however, release orders in some cases had been held up pending enquiries into the alleged abuse of imported stock by certain film producers.

No direct import licences for raw film are issued to the film industry.

(b) No, Sir. Generally, there are no such delays.

(c) Applications for release orders in respect of raw films are forwarded to the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports by the Steering Committee consisting of the members of the industry. In order to reduce the delays in the grant of release orders resulting from incomplete applications, a procedure has been introduced that the Steering Committee will forward only such applications to the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay as are complete in all respects.

#### Export of Tea

1402. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) our annual tea exports in kilograms and rupee value during the last three years;

(b) whether tea exports have fallen because of our withdrawal from the International Tea Expansion Board and if not, the exact reasons for the fall in exports;

(c) the reasons why Ceylon has beaten us and become the biggest exporter of tea; and

(d) whether it is a fact that foreign capital from tea plantations is being withdrawn and if so, how much and from what areas ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) Quantity and value of tea exported from India during 1967, 1968 and 1969 are as under :—

Year	Qty. (in mn. Kgs.)	Value (in Rs. crore.)
1967	213.68	189.04
1968	208.44	166.48
1969	176.73	130.27

(b) The reasons for fall in exports are the declining prices of tea in the International market, newer countries coming into the export market and a fast rising domestic market in India affecting the export availability and prices as compared to those in other markets.

(c) Though Ceylon is a small country and produces only about 220 to 225 mn. kgs. of tea as against about 400 mn. kgs. produced in India. Ceylon has a small population with a domestic consumption of only about 18 to 20 mn. kgs. against about 200 mn. kgs. consumed in India. Ceylon therefore has to sell most of the teas produced by her to foreign countries at whatever prices she may obtain. This is the main reason why Ceylon has, in recent years, surpassed India in export performance. Her unit values are lower.

(d) A few sterling companies have been selling tea estates mainly the uneconomic estates to Indian buyers. These areas are mostly from West Bengal and Assam areas. The sale proceeds of tea plantations repatriation of which was approved by Government during the period 1965 to 1968 are as under :—

Year	Sale proceeds (Fig. in lakhs)
1965	59.70
1966	89.20
1967	Nil
1968	98.72