

Export of Tea

479. SHRI R.B. RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea from the tea gardens of Darjeeling Hills exported during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the period from this export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Tea is exported mainly in blended form, either in bulk or in packets. In this process, origin of tea is lost at the time of blending and hence export of tea by origin of production cannot be worked out. Though export is mainly in blended form, some quantity of pure Darjeeling teas also gets exported in its original form. Also no separate data by origin of tea exported is maintained by DGCI&S.

However, according to the industry sources, around 80% of production of Darjeeling tea is exported every year. Darjeeling tea is exported generally to countries like Germany, Japan, UK etc.

IMF Findings of Per Capita Income Gap

480. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shocking findings in "World Economic Outlook" released by the I.M.F. that India will take 70 years to close half its per capita income gap as compared to other countries, on current GDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Chapter IV of the World Economic Outlook of May 1997 titled, "Globalization and the Opportunities for Developing Countries" used a comparative analytic table for 12 developing countries to consider implications for relative income patterns and convergence. In the explanatory footnote to that table, it is mentioned that India will require 69 (revised from the earlier 70) years to close by half its per capita income gap with the advanced economies if India maintains a relative growth rate of 3% registered in 1995-96. The above calculations are made for illustrative purpose only and would alter based on a number of factors. A cross-country analysis of IMF indicates that the long-term growth rates depend on a number of factors such as (a) skill level of the workforce; (b) absence of distortion affecting investment; (c) degree of openness of the economy; (d) macro-economic stability; and (e) freedom from political and civil unrest.

(c) and (d) The Government has been making efforts to improve the growth rates through wide-ranging reform measures. These measures are expected to spur production and contribute to higher output growth. The time gap indicated in the report can be brought down substantially if higher growth rates than in the past are achieved over the long term and are coupled with a decline in population growth.

[Translation]

PMRY Bihar

481. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received and accepted for loan to educated unemployed youths for self employment under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during 1996-97; State-wise;

(b) whether discrimination is being committed between urban and rural areas in the matter of sanctioning the loan under the Yojana;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the comparative difference in the minimum loan sanctioned to five States and Bihar under this scheme during the last year;

(e) the amount provided to Bihar during the current year and the number of unemployed to whom the amount is proposed to be provided;

(f) whether any steps have been taken to remove the difficulties faced by the unemployed persons in getting loan after sanction by the Industry department;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (d) A Statement showing State-wise number of applications received and sanctioned and average loan sanctioned to Bihar and other States under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during 1996-97 is attached.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they have no information of such discrimination.

(e) No financial targets are fixed under the PMRY. However, physical target for Bihar for 1997-98 is 21,500.

(f) to (h) Based on the sample studies of BRI and State Governments, banks have been inter-alia advised by RBI as under:

(i) No collateral/guarantee should be insisted upon while sanctioning loans; even where offered, collateral/guarantee should not be accepted.

(ii) Working Capital should be released based on the actual requirement of the loan.