

Indian tea is exported to over 80 countries in the world. Major importers of Indian tea are Russian Federation, UK, Germany, Poland, ARE, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Export of tea is mainly in blended form either in bulk or in packet and after blending, origin of the teas cannot be ascertained. Hence export of tea (both quantity and value) by origin of production can not be identified.

Tea Cultivation

2751. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage tea cultivation in new areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any study with regard to the potential for tea cultivation in new areas has been conducted;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) After having conducted a series of technical surveys, the following areas have been identified as having potential for tea cultivation. These have been declared as non-traditional areas for expansion of tea cultivation:

1. Arunachal Pradesh 2. Nagaland 3. Manipur 4. Sikkim 5. Mizoram 6. Meghalaya 7. Orissa 8. Idukki District of Kerala 9. Kodagu District of Karnataka 10. Kodaikanal District of Tamilnadu 11. Kumaoun and Garhwal Divisions of Uttar Pradesh 12. Wynaad District of Kerala 13. N.C. Hills of Assam 14. Southern Districts of Tripura State 15. Karbi Anglong District of Assam 16. Chamba and Mandi Districts of Himachal Pradesh.

(e) and (f) With a view to encourage tea cultivation in the identified potential areas declared as non traditional, Tea Board introduced the "New Tea Unit Financing Scheme for Non Traditional Areas" during the year 1982. This scheme envisaged grant of loan and subsidy towards cost of plantation for comprehensive and viable tea projects with at least 200 hec. in a contiguous block, with provision of a manufacturing unit.

From the 9th Five Year Plan, in place of the New Tea Unit Financing Scheme, two new schemes have been introduced viz. (i) Tea Development Scheme for the North Eastern States for Control of Jhum cultivation and (ii) New Area Development Scheme. While the former is applicable for non traditional States of the North East only, the latter is applicable for tea plantation elsewhere in non traditional

areas. The schemes envisage grant of subsidy @ Rs. 40,000/- per hectare.

Tea Board has also been operating a scheme to provide 50% of the estimated cost as loan repayable in easy instalments on soft terms for encouraging establishment of tea manufacturing units in the non traditional areas if set up in Govt. sector or by Registered Co-operatives. Capital grant is also provided by Tea Board for setting up of nucleus nurseries in non-traditional areas.

[Translation]

Cement Industry

2752. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cement industries in Riwa division of Madhya Pradesh and the production target fixed for each cement industry;

(b) the break-up of the total land acquired of from the private people and allocated by the Government for setting up the above industries;

(c) the details of the total amount of loan provided by the Government for each industry alongwith terms and conditions prescribed therefor;

(d) whether employment has not been provided by the above industries to the local unemployed people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) There are 6 large cement plants in Riwa division (Satna Cluster) of Madhya Pradesh. Production target for individual cement unit is not fixed by the Ministry of Industry.

(b) to (e) This information is not maintained centrally.

Handloom Weavers

2753. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to purchase the products manufactured by handloom weavers;

(b) if so, whether the Government intend to set up any Cotton-Yarn Bank for the manufactured products of handloom weavers in Bhagalpur; and

(c) the manner in which the Government have resolved the problems of economically weaker weavers and the kind of assistance provided/being provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) In pursuance of the decision of the Government of India, the purchase of certain handloom goods on Single

Tender System for use by Central Government Ministries/ Departments/Agencies is limited only to the handloom units notified by the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of Government. The eligible agencies can, however, avail assistance for setting up of Yarn Depot under the Mill Gate Price Scheme in accordance with its guidelines.

(c) Under various handloom schemes of the Government, the assistance is provided for input supplies, training, design development, technical development, marketing etc. and also for the welfare of weavers including economically weaker weavers.

[English]

German Aid

2754. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Germany has decided to cut aid of certain nations including India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) to what extent this decision is likely to affect the ongoing projects at present?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The Government has cancelled inter-Governmental negotiations on Development Co-operation with India and Pakistan in response to the nuclear tests. However, there is no cut in aid for ongoing projects in India.

Restriction on Demand of Coal

2755. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to restructure the demand of coal by power generating companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the decision has adversely affected the public sector coal units; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The demand of coal for each thermal power station is assessed and finalised in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority, the Railways and the Coal Companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (c) above.

Cheating by Travel Agencies

2756. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Touts send Kumb tourists to J&K" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated June 10, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken action against such fake tourist agents/touts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the press report two Italian tourists who wanted to go to Haridwar to attend the Kumbh Mela were duped by some Delhi based travel agents and were sent of Srinagar on the plea that the venue of the Mela has been changed because of alleged riots in U.P.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Tourism is regularly holding discussions with various agencies like the Airport Authorities, Delhi Police etc. to regulate the activities of unscrupulous agents/touts. In this particular case as reported in the *Pioneer* of June 10, 1998 regarding cheating by Travel Agencies, which *prima facie* appeared to be a criminal offence, the matter was taken up with the Commissioner of Police, Police Headquarters, Delhi and the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Tourism), Government of Jammu and Kashmir for immediate action.

Loans to Farmers

2757. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is planning to give any relaxation for unpaid loans given to farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) In the Budget Speech for 1998-99, it was announced, *inter-alia*, as under :

"Farmers often face chronic problems of overdue loans due to circumstances beyond their control. They are even committed to civil prison for this default. While the repayment culture must improve, this government is determined to create conditions so that no farmer goes to jail for a loan repayment default or is forced to commit suicide. The Reserve Bank will be issuing appropriate guidelines to the banks for hassle-free settlement of old