

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Today one racket has been exposed.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, here I must give the correct figures and I must give it precisely also. So, that figure is not available... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI G. G. SWELL : He should know. He should keep his eyes open.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I cannot guess and that is why I am the hon. Member that we do not have the correct figure. So far as the question as to what is the amount that is coming as a tube money is concerned, we do not have the precise figure regarding that also.

Incentives to Indian Tea Exporters to Prevent Hold of International Monopoly Houses

*663 **SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a few international monopoly houses are likely to bring a hold on the Tea trade; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to give incentives to the Indian exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, how is he answering questions for the Commerce Minister ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is the in-charge. He has already sought the permission to answer it. On behalf of the Commerce Minister he is answering.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : No change of portfolio,

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly let the House know as to how many international monopoly houses are engaged in the tea trade in India and since when, and do they own their own tea gardens, and if so, where ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, there were international companies which were called Sterling Companies. Then it was decided that the equity should be reduced to 76 per cent and many of them have reduced their equity. There are two big international companies which are engaged in export of tea. One is Lipton and the second is Brooke Bond. The acreage of land with the foreign companies is in the vicinity of 1.20 lakh hectares out of the total tea area of 3.96 lakh hectares, and they are engaged in the export of tea.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister as to how many Indians are exporting tea, in how much quantity, to which countries and how much foreign exchange do they earn, and whether for this export, the Government of India is giving any incentive to them ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, the hon. Member is asking for the statistics which I could have given in writing to him. But I would say that about 14 per cent of the export is done by the foreign companies and the rest of the export is done by the Indian companies. Tea goes to different countries. It goes to U. K., it goes to Germany, it goes to U.S.S.R. and it goes to other countries also. As to the exact amount of money we are earning from this, I will give him in writing.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Sir, I request that the hon. Minister may kindly send this information to me.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Before I ask a question regarding trade of tea, I would like to say something regarding production. You know that the Darjeeling Tea production is 12 to 13 thousand million KG in an average per year. About one lakh million KG, in the name of the Darjeeling Tea, is sold in the market and this is mainly done by two companies,

Brook Bond and Liptons. By this way, the Government is misusing the goodwill of the Darjeeling Tea. So, my specific question this. By exporting the Darjeeling Tea and other Tea, we are earning foreign exchange of about Rs. 700 crores every year.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your question? Don't go to monopoly system and all that.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : I am coming to the question. What is the concrete proposal of the Government to take over the entire tea trade under the STC?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Well, at present, we have no proposal to take over the Tea gardens and all that.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : I am asking not about Tea Gardens, but about Tea Trade.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Trade is allowed to be done by the tea growers. What we have done is that the tea is sold in the auction market. It is not allowed to be sold by private contractors unless tea comes to auction platforms. Then, proper gradation is done there; there are purchasers and the buyers and there would be competition in purchasing of tea. So, we have adopted this procedure. And we are not intending at present to take over the tea trade as such.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Recently last year Coimbatore started a tea Auction Centre and in Cochin also there is Tea Auction Centre. South has been having very good tea export in earlier days. Now it has come down. What is the experience that Government have gained after opening of Auction Centres in Coimbatore? Is the Government proposing any action to encourage the tea trade in the Southern region?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The policy of the Government would be to have the auction platforms every where in the country not only in one part of the country. The experience of the Government is this.

When the tea comes to auction platforms, there is proper gradation; there is competition between the buyers also. Generally the price available under this kind of arrangement is more accepted.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The Minister said that there are two international companies which are in the tea trade. Is the Minister not aware that both these companies today are being controlled by one company in England, that is, Liver Brothers. They are no longer two separate companies. This is being controlled by the same company. This is part (a). Part (b) is this: What incentives have been given and what has been the result to export tea in value-added form?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Our intention is to give encouragement to the export of tea in value added forms. Incentives are given. The marketing of tea is very important. In fact, the marketing aspect of tea is more important than the production itself as far as the export of tea to the other countries is concerned. We are helping the Indian growers to sell their tea under Indian names, under Indian brand, in foreign countries. We are giving them loans and all those things. And then we have a programme, which is a pilot programme, under which we are spending 50 lakhs and then we are providing warehousing facility. Cash compensation is also given to see that taxes (imposed on tea which is exported to other countries) are reduced, and that burden is not there, so that our tea becomes competitive in the international market.

[Translation]

Proposal to set up a Sugar Mill in Mainpuri (U.P.)

*664 **SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh have sent a proposal to set up a sugar mill in the district Mainpuri in the cooperative sector, and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon so far?