

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to stop such mal-practices ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) The quantity of basmati rice exported to USSR during 1982-83; 1983-84; and 1984-85 was 1,05,089 tonnes; 63,876 tonnes and 1,01,505 tonnes respectively.

(b) A communication making allegations against one of the suppliers was received in 1983. On investigation these were not substantiated.

(c) Basmati rice exported is subjected to inspection.

Plan to attract tourists during off-season months

***95. SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**

Will the Minister of **PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently made an attractive plan to attract tourists during the off-season months of April to September; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (b). With a view to substantially augmenting arrivals of foreign tourists from Europe during the summer months, the Department of Tourism together with members of Indian and foreign travel industry are promoting a package to popularise India as a summer destination. Some of the components of the scheme are the reduction of between 15 to 20 per cent of normal fares by the airlines operating between Europe and India and 25 per cent discount by members of the hotel industry thereby making an attractive summer package available for foreign tourists.

Stoppage of financial assistance to tea-gardens in Darjeeling and North Bengal by nationalised banks

***96. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :** Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks have stopped financing some of the tea-gardens in Darjeeling and North Bengal leading to the closure of some of the tea gardens or stoppage of the payment of wages and salaries to the workers; and

(b) if so, the particulars of such tea gardens and the reasons for stoppage of finance to these gardens ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). It was brought to the notice of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by the Tea Board that some tea companies were facing difficulties due to non release of funds by United Bank of India (UBI). The UBI has reported that out of the 40 tea gardens being financed by them in West Bengal, in the case of 12, funds for 1986-87 season were not released due to seasonal deficit and non compliance of terms and conditions. However, one more case has been sanctioned by the bank and disbursements would be made. The remaining cases are at different stages of scrutiny.

Excise raids in Bangalore City

***97. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Central Excise raids conducted in Bangalore city since November 1985;

(b) the number of cases booked; and

(c) the amount involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) 33

(b) 22

(c) Rs. 289.36 lakhs (approximately)