

(b) if so, impact of this lending policy on the developing countries in general, and India in particular; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to cushion its effect?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Suggestions have been made that the terms and conditions of IDA credits should be made somewhat stiffer than at present. However, so far as we are aware, no formal proposal to this effect has been made by the World Bank.

(b) and (c). In our view, at a time when the developing countries are beset with difficulties in their balance of payments and face declining rates of growth, any hardening of concessional assistance to them is unjustifiable and inappropriate and would aggravate their existing difficulties. This position has been forcefully stated at the Annual Meetings of the Fund and the Bank at Toronto in September, 1982.

Expert Committee for Small Tea Growers

2159. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an Expert Committee to look into the problems of the small tea growers;

(b) if so, whether the Expert Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, salient features of the report; and

(d) action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Expert Committee on Small Growers has submitted its Report in August, 1982. The main conclusions and recommendations are as follows:-

1. A predominance of small growers is in South India. They account for a significant percentage of the total area under tea in South India. This should be kept in view while, formu-

lating policy for revitalising the small growers' sector.

2. Programmes for small growers are to be drawn up by the Tea Board in consultation with the State agencies and Tea Associations.

3. Depending on the circumstances in each State, a Committee be set up under the aegis of Tea Board for recommending sale price of green leaf by small estates to the manufacturing units.

4. Where suitable, the Indonesian pattern of nucleus estates be accepted in the small growers' sector.

5. Certain specific improvements in the existing schemes of the Tea Board.

6. At present there is not much linkage between the budget of State Governments under the Plan and the Tea Board's programmes. It would be desirable that the State Govt. plans in respect of tea be drawn up and executed in consultation with the Tea Board.

The Committee has also made specific recommendations in respect of Small Growers in Tamil-Nadu, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, Assam, Cachar etc. Tea Board has been requested to offer its comments on the recommendations of the Committee to facilitate Government level examination.

Changes in policy to Step up Exports

2160. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) Whether Government have since worked out certain policy changes in order to step up exports;

(b) if so, the details of the changes; and

(c) in what way they differ from the previous ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (c). Export promotion is a continuous process. A

series of measures have been taken in this direction. A close watch is, however, kept on these measures and the performance of our exports and whenever necessary suitable changes are made.

In the course of last two years, several policy measures have been taken by the Government to promote exports. The main thrust of these measures was to remove domestic constraints to production both for export promotion and import substitution. Some of the new measures include removal of licensing constraints on export production, policy for setting up of 100 per cent export oriented units, simplification and streamlining of duty drawback procedures, extension of period of pre-shipment credit for engineering and other export oriented industries, introduction of the new policy relating to trading houses, expansion of exports of public sector undertakings, liberal import of inputs and technology for export production and extension of the policy for grant of cash compensatory support for further period of three years upto 31st March, 1985.

Import of Self-Propelled Harvester Combines

2161. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's policy banning the import of self-propelled harvester combines is being flouted by an industrial corporation which is openly importing such machines;

(b) whether as a result of this, not only the country is faced with a situation of open flouting of Government's policy, but there is also heavy outgo of scarce foreign exchange on the hand and virtual closure of the country's only public sector licenced manufacture of self-propelled harvester combines on the other;

(c) whether such imports against restrictions made are because of the private sector firm taking advantage of the various loopholes in Government's import policy; and

(d) what Government propose to do to put a stop to this flouting and to ensure that the public sector company manufacturing the combines indigenously is helped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (a) to (d). According to the import policy in force complete harvester combines can be imported only against specific import licences issued in consultation with the technical authorities concerned. A complaint was received from a manufacturer of self-propelled harvester combines that another industrial unit was importing such combines to the detriment of the interest of indigenous industry manufacturing these goods. Enquiries revealed that the industrial unit which had made imports was registered for the manufacture of harvester combines and, according to them, the items imported were components required for the manufacture of such combines. Enquiries also revealed that the unit had submitted its phased manufacturing programme to the State Director of Industries which was under examination. Meanwhile administrative instructions have been issued so that further imports are not allowed till such time the State Government was satisfied with regard to the implementation of approved phased manufacturing programme.

Boosting of Export of Processed Foods and Fruits

2162. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the results of the high-level, inter-ministerial Committee to examine the possibility of boosting exports of processed foods and fruits and recommend suitable measures;

(b) what were the recommendations and measures; and

(c) what other steps have been taken on the basis of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). The Study Group on export of processed foods and vegetables made various recommendations, for grant of incentives, setting up of necessary infrastructure. Improving of