

### **Consortium of Major Tea Exporting Countries**

\*914. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken an initiative to form a consortium of the major tea exporting countries to increase the price of tea in the world market;

(b) if so, the response from the tea-producing countries thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to further pursue the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). A conference of Tea Exporting Countries was held in Bandung (Indonesia) in May, 1980 and India was one of the participants. The Conference considered proposals for introduction of a system of supply management based primarily on export quotas. It was agreed that further consideration of some aspects of this question would be required before allocation of the global quota could be finalised. A consensus has emerged among tea producing countries that an agreement would help in ensuring remunerative prices for producers. India has all along been playing a positive role in the negotiations for arriving at an International Agreement on Tea.

### **Supply of Steel for Domestic Needs**

\*915. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) have Government fixed any rate structure for sale of steel materials for domestic needs like house construction and for small scale industries; and

(b) what steps have been taken to supply steel at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b).

There is at present no statutory control on the price and distribution of any category of iron and steel. However, the prices of main steel producers' products are determined and announced by the Joint Plant Committee. In the distribution guidelines for the current year, provision has been made for supply of bars, rods, tor-steel and G.C. sheets to individual house-builders up to a maximum of 5 tonnes in each case. The producers give high priority to such demands and the supplies are made on fixed stockyard prices which are uniform throughout the country.

2. Small scale industries other than those falling in the compact group of industries get their raw material from the respective State Small Industries Corporation to whom supplies are being increased progressively year after year. This year, a total quantity of 5.75 lakh tonnes is proposed to be distributed to SSI Units through these Corporations, as against 3.33 lakh tonnes in 1978-79 and 4.50 lakh tonnes in 1979-80. As a measure of assistance to the small scale sector, supplies to the Corporations are being made at concessional prices and they, in turn, are required to supply the material to the units at prices which are Rs. 40/- per tonne less than the stockyard prices.

### **Foreign Money**

\*916. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are satisfactory arrangements regarding receipt of information by the Reserve Bank of India from the State or district administration concerned about foreign money which is received from time to time for use in tribal areas;

(b) if so, what arrangements have been made by the Banks to ascertain that the foreign money is actually