

cratic, slow manner, but in an expeditious manner because we depended so much upon these people for gaining the revenues for the State and also seeing to it that the tax-payers are not harassed in any way?

MR. SPEAKER: What about the rural people?

SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA: Sir, the hon. Member is a senior Member of the House and whatever he has suggested will be taken into account.

Walk through system at international airports

*359. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced "Walk Through System" at the Country's international airports; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):

(a) "Walk Through System" has been introduced in the Green Channel for the speedy clearance of tourists and passengers who have no dutiable goods or who have nothing to declare to the customs.

(b) With a view to preventing the abuse of the system and to checking smuggling there will be a selective percentage check of the passengers. Other measures, such as closer supervision, better intelligence and surveillance arrangements have also been adopted.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister the steps taken to strengthen the Department's machinery after the

introduction of this "Walk Through System" at the international airports. If so, what are the details thereof?

SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA: I have just now read the precautions which the Department proposes to take and the details have also been given.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: What steps have been taken to update the facilities at the air port and may I also know....

MR. SPEAKER: That does not flow from this question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Has the Government accepted the recommendations of the Committee appointed in 1973 regarding the airport facilities?

SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA: There was no Committee appointed in 1973. A Committee was appointed in 1978 and all the recommendations of the Committee have been taken care of.

चाय के बारे में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय गोष्ठी

*360. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय चाय संघ, कलकत्ता के तत्वावधान में जनवरी, 1981 में काय के बारे में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय गोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया था; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस में किन-किन मुद्दों पर विचार विमर्श किया गया ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main items discussed were raising the production of tea to 1,400 M. Kgs. by 2000 A.D., arrangements for raising finance for the investment requirements of the tea industry, taxation on tea industry by the State and Central Governments; prevention of strikes and go slows at ports and warehouses which are affecting tea exports, and making available adequate land for extension of tea cultivation in both traditional and non-traditional areas.

श्री निहास सिंह अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार चाय बागानों की भूमि की सीमा बांधने की बात होच रही है ? यदि हां, तो कब तक अगर नहीं तो क्यों ?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: The question is about the recommendations of the seminar. The seminar has made the recommendation that the area should also be extended and this matter will be taken into consideration.

श्री निहास सिंह : क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार चाय के दामों में एक रूपता लाने के लिए तथा मजदूरों के शोषण की रोकथाम के लिए चाय बागानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने की बात सोच रही है ?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: There is no general policy for nationalisation of tea industry.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: What were the suggestions made by the seminar regarding the improvement of the quality and what steps is the Government going to take so far as sick tea gardens are concerned?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: The discussions in this seminar were particularly confined to the improvement of industry extension of production and to add more areas for production. Improvement in the quality of tea and production were also considered during the discussion in the seminar. (Interruptions) We will take necessary steps on receipt of the recommendations of the seminar formally. We will certainly give due consideration to them.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: What about the sick tea gardens?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Tea is facing an over supply situation. It is, therefore, necessary for the tea producing and exporting nations to come to an understanding as to how the excess supply could be controlled and curtailed. Discussions have been going on in this regard under the auspices of FAO and UNCTAD and in regard to the supply management procedure which could be brought in. Were similar discussions held in the International Tea Seminar at Calcutta? What was the progress achieved towards understanding and forging a united organisation of tea producing countries to enforce supply management and quota restrictions so as to ensure remunerative price for the tea exporting industries.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The hon. Member has put two questions.

How are we going to reduce the price of tea so that it becomes competitive in the international market? What measures are we going to take to have some sort of understanding among the producing countries?

In reply to the second part of the question I may state that the hon. Member is well aware of the action initiated by us. Some meetings have taken place under UNCTAD formulation and it may be possible for us to have some sort of an arrangement among the various producing countries. I would not like to mention the names of the countries, for obvious reasons, which have some reservation, but we are trying to persuade them.

In regard to the price mechanism, I may state, I am afraid the distortions in the fiscal measures resorted to by some of the State Governments where tea is being produced, for instance recently a levy was imposed by the Bengal Government on the sale of extra tea garden cell are creating a problem for us and making our tea costlier.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: What about the price increase

of steel and coal? You are talking of tea in West Bengal.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You are not drinking steel or coal but you are drinking tea.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: In the international seminar that took place you discussed certain obstructions that you are facing in the matter of production. You discussed certain obstructions you are facing in the matter of extension. What are the obstructions and hinderances you are facing? How are you going to alleviate them?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: The main obstructions were the topic of the seminar. Seminar discussed the difficulties experienced at the port at Calcutta and the Warehouses located in that area. The difficulty is that due to this uncertainty some of the buyers feel that it will not be possible for the Indian suppliers to keep up their commitment of supplies and, therefore, we fear that if things continue in this fashion, they might divert their buying to some other countries.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Serious threat is not from taxation but seriousness of the threat to the tea gardens is from the natural calamity and finance. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken to save the plantations from natural calamities, particularly from drought. Is the Government setting up a separate Finance Corporation for tea? What are the special steps that have been taken to extend tea cultivation, particularly in the Darjelling area because it is the best tea in the world market?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN: There is no proposal for a separate tea corporation or finance corporation. Recently a decision has been taken that the Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank will look into all aspects of the tea industry including the finances.

So far as natural calamities are concerned, I think we can better pray to God so that there should be no natural calamity.

Philippines Interest in Setting ..up Joint Ventures

*363. **SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Philippines has shown interest on setting up joint ventures for manufacture of engineering products; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction on it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

No firm proposals have been received recently to set up Joint Ventures in Philippines. However, a Study-Cum Trade delegation sponsored by the Government of Philippines visited India during October-November, 1980. This delegation showed interest in setting up Joint Ventures in collaboration with Indian parties in Philippines in areas such as Diesel engine for small fishing boats, handmade papers, umbrella, lapidary and jewellery, leather, hand-tools, bicycles, foundry for small metal parts, electronic components and medical equipments, office-equipment and textile mill. Philippines is also negotiating for setting up Joint Venture in cultivation of cashewnut. The report of the Philippines delegation is yet to be received by the Government of India.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the exploratory talks have been started. What will be the total investment in the joint ventures? What will be our share and what will be the share of the Philippines?