

### Decline in Tea Export to USA

\*171. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been decline of tea export to USA during the last one year;

(b) if so, to what extent and the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to make Indian tea popular there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

Exports of Indian tea to USA during 1979 were higher than those in 1978 as would be seen from the following figures:

1978	1979
2.18 m.kgs.	5.08 m.kgs.

In 1978 imports of tea in USA from all countries including India declined as compared to those in 1977. The main reasons for this decline were (i) stock-piling policy adopted by US importers in 1977 anticipating dockworkers' strike in that country and (ii) uncertainty in their mind about the Indian policy on export duty on tea. During 1979, however, total imports of tea in USA from all countries including India increased as compared to those in 1978.

(c) During 1978 and 1979 various steps were taken by the Government to increase exports of Indian tea. The export duty which was levied with effect from April, 1977 at the rate of Rs. 5/- per kg. was first reduced to Rs. 2/- per kg. in September, 1978 and was abolished altogether in February, 1979. The system of refund of additional excise duty on packet tea exports was also re-introduced in January, 1979. For encouraging exports of tea in value-added form (i.e. tea bags) the import of tea bagging machinery was brought under O.G.L. and the import duty on these machines was reduced from 75 per cent to 25 per cent with

effect from 18th January, 1979. In addition, from April, 1979 the rate of cash compensatory support, to which packet tea and tea bags were eligible, was enhanced from 10 per cent to 12½ per cent of f.o.b. value. Very recently, with effect from 3rd March, 1980 the import duty and countervailing duties on the import of aluminium foil used for tea chest lining has been waived for a limited period up-to 30th June, 1980.

In October/November, 1979, a delegation headed by Chairman, Tea Board, visited USA and other countries and held discussions with the major importers.

### New Academy to train Pilots for IA and AI

\*172. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new academy to train pilots for both Indian Airlines and Air India is likely to be set up in the near future;

(b) if so, where and at what cost;

(c) whether it is a fact that already there is a large number of unemployed pilots in the country; and

(d) if so, whether some new channels of employment are being created to absorb all of them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) There is a proposal to establish a joint AI/IA flight training academy to train pilots.

(b) The location of the academy has not yet been finalised and cost analysis not yet carried out.

(c) As on 1-2-1980 there are about 162 unemployed pilots holding current Commercial Pilot's Licence.

(d) Various organisations under the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation have been asked to explore the possibility of employing the unemployed pilots on suitable alternative jobs.