

discovered in a raid in Calcutta on 8th December, 1975; and

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) Yes, Sir. In a raid on the factory premises of M/s. Black Diamond Beverages Ltd., Calcutta, incriminating documents, showing clandestine manufacture and surreptitious removal of aerated water were seized by the central excise officers.

(b) One of the Directors of the Company and the Works Manager of the factory were arrested. They have been released on bail. The case is under investigation.

#### Demand of Quality Tea

\*156. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is growing demand of quality tea from foreign markets; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tea Board's Development Schemes viz. Tea Plantation Finance Scheme and Replantation Subsidy Scheme provide financial assistance for extending new areas and/or replanting/replacing old areas. The Hire Purchase Scheme assists modernisation of factories or expanding existing factories. These Schemes in combination help in increasing not only production but also quality of Tea. Recently the replanting subsidy scheme has been amended to cover rejuvenation pruning with or without infilling in Hill areas which will assist in improving production of quality

teas. The Tea Board provides assistance in making available various inputs like fertilizers, coal, furnace oil, weedicides, pesticides, etc.

#### Rural Banks

\*157. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved in establishing rural banks in the country; and

(b) whether Government have recommended adoption of suitable legislative measures by the State Governments to facilitate effective functioning of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Government have so far established 7 Regional Rural Banks in the country.

(b) For facilitating flow of bank credit to agriculture, Government have impressed upon the States where Regional Rural Banks have been established, to expedite (i) enactment of legislation on the lines of the "Model Bill" recommended by the Expert Group on State Enactments having a bearing on commercial banks' lending to agriculture and (ii) organisation of viable Farmers' Service Societies in the area of operation of these banks.

#### Shortage of One-Rupee Currency Notes

\*158. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why there is still a shortage of one-rupee new currency notes; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to end the shortage of one-rupee currency notes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and