

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

(a) and (b). Precise figures relating to cost of production of tea in various countries are not available for comparison. However, tea prices all over the world appreciated substantially in 1974 including that of Indian Tea. This has in no way affected India's share in world tea export which is about 30 per cent.

Stoppage of U.S. Aid to India

*166 SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.A. has decided to stop aid to India; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). Government have seen reports that the U.S. Government does not propose resuming aid to India this year. There has been no American bilateral development assistance to India since 1972, nor has the Government of India asked for it. It is not our policy to base our relationship with the U.S. or any other country, on the concept of aid, but rather on self-reliance. It is for the U.S. to decide whether or not they would offer aid to other countries.

Constitution of Non-official Consultative Committees to supervise Distribution of Loans

*167. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is constituting non-official Consultative Committees in order to supervise the dis-

tribution of loans to weaker sections of the people in the country; and

(b) if so, the guide lines and composition thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to constitute non-official consultative committees in order to supervise the distribution of loans to the weaker sections of the people in the country. However, the question of associating non-officials with District Consultative Committees, set up under the Lead Bank Scheme, has been under the examination of Government and the Reserve Bank following a recommendation in that regard by the Estimates Committee of Parliament. It has been decided that besides continuing association of non-officials in some of the District Consultative Committees in some States where it is already obtaining, in other States non-officials having specialised expertise in critical sectors of rural economy may be associated on an experimental basis with the District Consultative Committees in one district in each State.

ग्रन्थक व्यापार निगम द्वारा ग्रन्थक का निर्यात

†168. श्री शंकर बहाल सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करने कि

(क) क्या ग्रन्थक व्यापार निगम ग्रन्थक व्यापार में गतिरोध समाप्त करने और उसका निर्यात बढ़ाने हेतु कोई प्रयत्न कर रहा है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसका स्वरूप क्या है ?