

(c) if so, whether to avoid the problem, his Ministry is thinking of nationalising Tea-gardens ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a)

Jute goods ...	Rs. 189.92 crores
Tea ...	Rs. 146.66 crores

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

India's approach to U. S. Government to waive Import surcharge

*44. SHRI P. GANGADEB :
SHRI P. M. MEHTA :
SHRI H. M. PATEL :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has made a strong plea with the U. S. Government to exempt developing countries from the purview of the recent ten per cent surcharge on all imports;

(b) whether one fourth of the Indian goods exported to the United States annually will be affected;

(c) if so, the total loss India will have to suffer; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not more than 21% of Indian exports are affected by the new imposition.

(c) It is very difficult to assess at this stage the actual effect on foreign exchange earnings.

(d) In view of the temporary nature of the imposition of additional import duties, no action by Government is considered

necessary yet. The position is being kept under constant review.

Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Bill

*45. SHRI N. E. HORO :
SHRI VARKEY GEORGE :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of States in the country which have supported the Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Bill;

(b) whether some States have objected to this Bill; and

(c) if so, the names of such States and the arguments placed by them ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHAL) : (a) Eleven States have so far ratified the Bill.

(b) Government has no information that any State has objected to the Bill.

(c) Does not arise.

Scheme for Expanding Export Markets

*46. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme has recently been formulated for expanding export markets for the 26 developing countries of the Commonwealth;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) how India is likely to be affected by this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE : (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The Second meeting of the Board of Representatives of the Commonwealth Fund