

2. Import of substantial quantity of steel was arranged through Hindustan Steel Ltd. for distribution to engineering exporters. Further imports are envisaged mainly for the major industries.
3. Steps were taken to allocate matching steel against export orders.
4. Exporting units were allowed to import all categories of steel to their full requirements on the basis of confirmed orders.

In addition to the above, following continuing facilities were available :

- (i) Import replenishment at 20% of fob value ;
- (ii) Compensatory support on case to case basis ;
- (iii) Export finance at preferential rate of interest ;
- (iv) Credit facilities for deferred realisation on case to case basis ;
- (v) Facilities of publicity, market survey, sales and study teams, delegations, etc. through the Engineering Export Promotion Council.
- (vi) The management of a major wagon exporting firm which was closed for financial reasons, was taken over by Government and it is expected to fulfil outstanding commitments including export orders.

(b) During the current year, 1971-72, apart from continuing facilities stated above, the following measures have been/are being taken to promote export of wagons :

- (i) A separate Corporation, called the Project and Equipments Corporation of India has been formed in April, 1971, as a subsidiary to the State Trading Corporation with one of its principal function being

export of Railway systems including rolling stock etc.

- (ii) The Projects and Equipments Corporation has started a data bank to collect and classify all relevant information about overseas buyers.
- (iii) Personal contacts with overseas buyers are being established.
- (iv) Foreign buyers delegations are being invited to visit India and see the progress.
- (v) Special imports and other assistance are being allowed to meet standing orders.

Setting up of Tea Corporation

\*962. SHRI S. R. DAMANI :

SHRI MULKI RAJ SAINI :

SHRI BRIJ RAJ SINGH-KOTAH :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal regarding conversion of the Tea Board into a Tea Corporation has since been implemented ; and

(b) if so, what is its capital structure, the names of persons on the Board of Directors and the functions expected of it ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The proposal for the conversion of the Tea Board into Tea Corporation has not been accepted. The details of the set up and functions of a Tea Marketing Corporation are being worked out.

Enquiries from Japan and Italy for buying Small Scale Industries Goods

\*964. SHRI RAMKANWAR : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any enquiries from Japan and Italy for