

Coffee Development Plan

- (i) Long-term loans to small growers for intensive cultivation.
- (ii) Medium-term loans to estates to acquire machinery and equipment on hire-purchase terms.
- (iii) Short-term loans to estates for working capital.

Coffee Replanting Scheme

Long-term loans to estates for replanting old and low-yielding coffee plants.

(c) The financial outlays for the existing Coffee Development Plan and Coffee Replanting Schemes would be fixed at the time of finalisation of the Plan. No contribution is envisaged from the Coffee Producing States.

**Export of Silk Fabrics by State
Trading Corporation**

*165. SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the owners of powerlooms of art silk weaving industry in Amritsar have criticised the handling of export of art silk fabrics by the State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the main points of their criticism and their demands; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to revitalise the industry?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). The art silk cloth weaving Associations at Amritsar have submitted a memorandum to Government mainly complaining against the high prices of viscose rayon yarn and against the working of the current export promotion schemes for cellulosic art silk fabrics and nylon fabrics.

(c) On viscose rayon prices the Tariff Commission has already been requested to submit an interim report which is ex-

pected to be received by the middle of March, 1969. Corrective measures, if any called for, will be considered on receipt of the said report. The export promotion measures already in operation are constantly under review and for the furtherance of exports Government would take into account the suggestions received from the Industry and Trade including the art silk weaving interests at Amritsar. Recently Government have decided to supply viscose filament yarn at concessional prices to weavers exporting rayon fabrics to Afghanistan.

India's Exports and Imports

*166. SHRI R. V. NAIK:
SHRI NANJA GOWDER:
SHRI MAHENDRA MAJHI:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted a survey of India's imports and exports during the year 1968-69;

(b) whether initiative was taken during the year 1968-69 for capturing new markets for Indian goods;

(c) if so, whether these efforts have met with any success; and

(d) if so, the balance of payment position as a result of the efforts made for increasing exports and decreasing imports?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Government of India have been keeping a careful watch of the country's export performances and making strenuous efforts to push Indian goods in new markets and introduce new items into traditional markets. These efforts have shown fruitful results during the current year. Exports during April-December, 1968 at Rs. 1019 crores represented an all

time record; these were higher by 12.9% compared to exports in April-December, 1967 and also higher by 5.7% over the earlier record of Rs. 964.2 crores, (in terms of the present rupee) reached in April-December, 1964.

The rise in exports during April-November, 1968 (for which country-wise export statistics are available) compared to April-November, 1967 was Rs. 112 crores. 60% of the rise in exports was in respect of exports to Asia and Oceania including ECAFE countries, about 10% in respect of exports to East European countries, 10% to America, 9% to Western Europe etc.

India's import bill during April-December, 1968 at Rs. 1376.5 crores was lower by 107.7 crores compared to April-November, 1967, India's trade deficit which stood at Rs. 581.8 crores in April-December, 1967 narrowed to Rs. 357.5 crores in April-December, 1968 i.e. by about Rs. 224 crores. The above reduction in the trade gap was achieved mainly through reduction in imports of food-grains and metals both ferrous and non-ferrous and increase in exports.

Assets of Business Houses

*167. SHRI HIMATSINGKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of business houses whose assets exceed Rs. 20 crores taking into account the companies and industries owned, controlled and/or managed by them and the number of such houses whose assets exceed Rs. 50 crores and Rs. 100 crores; and

(b) the number of firms or companies having assets exceeding Rs. 1 crore, Rs. 2 crores and Rs. 5 crores, the assets being computed per undertaking separately in case a company is operating more than one undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) According to the information collected by the Monopolies

Inquiry Commission about total assets of companies in various business Groups in 1964, 33 business Groups had assets exceeding Rs. 20 crores; 12 business Groups had assets exceeding Rs. 50 crores and 3 business Groups had assets exceeding Rs. 100 crores.

(b) According to the information collected by the Monopolies Inquiry Commission about companies (other than Government, banking and insurance) 838 companies had assets exceeding Rs. 1 crore; 474 companies had assets exceeding Rs. 2 crores and 169 companies had assets each exceeding Rs. 5 crores as on 31st March, 1964. Information about firms and undertaking is not available.

Industries in Malaysia

*168. SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted the Indian Industrialists to start industries in Malaysia as joint ventures; and

(b) if so, whether the industrialists have made rapid progress in setting up industries?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far seven proposals from different Indian parties for setting up joint industrial ventures in Malaysia have been approved by the Government of India. Of these, one project went into production in July, 1968. The other six are in different stages of implementation.

Conversion of Metre-Gauge lines into Broad-Gauge

*169. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:
SHRI J. M. BISWAS:
SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:
SHRI N. K. SANGHI:
SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI:
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:
DR. RANEN SEN: