

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to keep up the position; and

(c) the efforts made to explore more markets for Indian tea?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The exports of tea during the year 1967 are reported to have exceeded the exports in 1965 and in 1966. Final figures are however awaited.

(b) and (c) The possibility of increasing exports of tea whether to traditional or to new markets, is continuously engaging the attention of Government. The recent downward readjustments of export duties is one such step. The talks which took place between the Governments of India and Ceylon had the same objective in mind. How to increase the export earnings of the developing countries through higher exports at better prices of primary commodities like tea is also engaging the attention of various international organisations including the UNCTAD II which is currently in session.

Capital Punishment for Sabotage on Railways

36. SHRI MAYAVAN:
SHRI ANBUCHAEZHIAN:
SHRI T. D. RAMABADRAN:
SHRI DEIVEEKAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to introduce legislation during the current session for the capital punishment for sabotage on Railways in the country;

(b) if so, when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(c) whether the views of the States have been ascertained in this regard; and

(d) if so, their reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) (b). Yes, but it is not likely to be introduced in the current session.

(c) As the matter falls in the current list of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the Union Government is competent to enact the legislation on the subject.

(d) Does not arise.

Closed and Mismanaged Tea Plantations

37. SHRI MAYAVAN:
SHRI ANBUCHAEZHIAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to take over closed and mismanaged tea plantations in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken;

(c) the total number of such plantations and the reasons for their closure; and

(d) whether any compensation is proposed to be given to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHR MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Aerial Mineral Survey

38. SHRIMATI SUSHELA GOPALAN:
SHRI UMANATH:
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN:
SHRI P. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an American Company has been given charge for carrying out the said survey;

(b) if so, the name of the American firm; and