

have abolished minimum export price for tea; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). In view of prospects of higher world production, presence of large quantities of low quality teas in the world market and higher stocks level, the prices of tea have shown declining trend during 1985. In the drop of this situation, minimum export price on tea exports has been abolished so to enable Indian teas to compete effectively in the world market.

[Translation]

Accumulation of Huge Stocks of Small Staple Cotton with Farmers

926. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers in the country are getting remunerative price for small-staple and long-staple cotton;

(b) whether large stocks have accumulated with the farmers producing small-staple cotton and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for importing cotton last year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Cotton Corporation of India has been asked to purchase cotton at the minimum support prices as and when the market prices of kapas trend to fall below the support price to assure the farmer of remunerative prices.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The import of medium staple cotton was resorted to during the last cotton season to meet a part of the shortage in this variety estimated at that time.

[English]

Interest of Delayed Payment on Out-station Cheques

927. SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have directed nationalised banks to pay interest on out-station cheques which are not credited beyond 28 days;

(b) whether it is a fact that most cheques are delayed for a period between 21 and 25 days;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the period of delay permitted to only 20 days to make concession meaningful; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Reserve Bank of India advised banks in August 1984 to pay interest at Savings Bank rate on outstation cheques drawn on their own branches after a period of 28 days where credit was afforded or cheques returned to the depositors beyond a period of 28 days of their lodgement.

(b) No specific data is available regarding the time required for collection cheques.

(c) and (d). The question of reducing the time taken by banks for collection of outstation cheques has been engaging the attention of government and the banks and significant improvement in this regard is expected with progressive improvement in communications and mechanisation.

Tourist Package Scheme for Members of Parliament

928. SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to arrange package tours on weekends for the

Members of Parliament (during Session days) to visit nearby places of interest; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Study tours of Members of Parliament are arranged by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs either on request of Members of Parliament or on sponsorship by Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India from time to time to visit National Projects to enable the Members to have first hand knowledge of such projects.

At present, however, there is no proposal with the Department of Tourism to arrange package tours on weekends for Members of Parliament.

Impact of Economic Liberalisation Policy

929. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied the impact of its economic liberalisation policy, before considering further step to reinforce the policy; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The impact of economic policy measures is continuously under review, and changes as necessary in policy are made in the light of emerging trends and our national priorities.

(b) Does not arise.

Amount Received from West Bengal as Customs, Excise and Income Tax during Sixth Five Year Plan

930. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount received from West Bengal by the Union Government by way of customs duty, excise duty, income tax etc. during the Sixth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the details of amount released to Government of West Bengal by the Union Government during the Sixth Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Amount received from West Bengal by the Union Govt. by way of Customs Duty, Excise, Duty, Income-tax during the Sixth Five Year Plan Period (1980-85).

Tax/Duty	Amount received (Rs. in crores)
I. DIRECT TAXES	
(i) Income Tax	553.24
(ii) Corporation Tax	1917.99
(iii) Interest Tax	244.84
(iv) Wealth Tax	39.82
(v) Gift Tax	3.73
(vi) Estate Duty	8.14
II. INDIRECT TAXES	
(i) Customs Duty	3860.21
(ii) Excise Duty	3523.53

NOTE : Revenue from Union Excise duties is inclusive of collection from Sikkim and Andman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) Amount released to Govt. of West Bengal by the Union Govt. during Sixth Plan Period 1980-85 :

(a) On account of Share of Taxes

Share of Tax/Duty	Amount (Rs. in crores)
(i) Incomes Tax	444.92
(ii) Estate Duty	14.94
(iii) Grant on account of Wealth Tax on Agricultural property	1.81
(iv) Basic Excise Duty	1230.46
(v) Adul. Excise Duty	253.16

NOTE : Collection on account of Customs duties are not shareable with States.