

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). The total foreign exchange earnings made by MMTC through linking exports to imports are given below :

1984-85	Rs. Nil
1985-86	Rs. 180 crore
1986-87	Rs. 220 crore

Under the system of link deals, MMTC uses its imports strength to augments exports from India.

(d) List of items imported by MMTC under link deals include non-ferrous metals, steel and steel products, chemical fertilizers etc. List of items exported under the Link deals include Engineering goods, agricultural products, minerals and ores, leather products etc.

(e) MMTC plans to continue to fulfil the role as a canalising agency and make efforts constantly to help generate exports from India.

Review of MPEDA by IIFT

2132. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) was entrusted with reviewing the performance of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) ; and

(b) if so, the important recommendations made in the report and action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations made in the Study Report include assigning more effective and increased role for MPEDA in exploitation of deep sea fishery resources, active involvement in production aspects of fisheries, development of brackishwater resources and drawing up action plans for short, medium and long term export targets of marine products. No final decision has yet been taken, on these recommendations.

[Translation]

Thakkar-Natarajan Commission Report of Fairfax

2133. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Thakkar-Natarajan Commission has submitted its report on Fairfax issue to Government ; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the report and the future programme of Government in this regard and the action taken so far or proposed to be taken by Government on the basis of this report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

[English]

Revitalisation of Tea Industry

2134. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government are likely to take to revitalise the tea industry ;

(b) whether there is any plan to revamp the Coffee, Tea and Rubber Boards ; and

(c) if so the details thereof with time frame ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The Government have recently constituted a fifteen member Committee headed by Chairman, Tea Board to formulate long term strategy and plan for tea. This Committee has been asked (i) to evolve a long term and medium term policy and strategy for tea (ii) to evolve a plan strategy for maximising exports with substantial increases in value added exports and (iii) to assess requirements of resources on a realistic basis and suggest alternative approaches for resource mobilisation. A separate Committee has also been constituted to determine strategy on tea research.

This Committee would be :