

Manganese Export Policy

6760. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) the present policy of Government to permit export of Manganese Ore ;

(b) the exports made during 1977-78 of different grades and how they compare with the previous year; and

(c) the details of efforts being made to locate new reserves of this ore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG) : (a) In view of inadequate reserves and growing demand for indigenous consumption, exports of Manganese Ore are permitted on restrictive basis .

(b) The exports made during 1976-77 and 1977-78 of different grades have been as under :—

(Quantity : in lakh tonnes)

Grade	1976-77	1977-78 (Estimated)
High Grade (.46% Mn.)	0.47	0.38
Medium Grade (35—45%)	1.02	0.11
Low Grade (—35%)	6.28	4.66
Black Iron Ore	0.51	0.45
TOTAL	8.28	5.60

(c) Geological Survey of India are carrying out exploration for locating new deposits of manganese ore as well as assessing reserves in the known areas.

Theft in Customs Godown in Delhi :

6761. SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item published on 18th February, 1978 that thieves in Customs House have managed to steal a whole shipment of leather jackets and sarees from the Customs Godown in Delhi;

(b) if so, the total amount of value of the goods involved; and

(c) what steps the Government is taking to put a stop to such nefarious activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On the night of 3rd/4th February, 1978 the following goods were stolen from a Customs godown at Palam:—

(i) 14 jackets of a value of about Rs. 5500/- out of a consignment of 50 leather jackets of Indian origin ;

(ii) one package containing sarces of Indian origin, of which it has not yet been possible to ascertain the value ;

(iii) machinery parts of foreign origin the value of some of these is about Rs. 26,000 and that of the remaining is being ascertained; and

(iv) some printed matter of no commercial value.

(c) The normal precautions about the physical security of the premises, arrangements for watch and ward, locking and sealing, patrolling and surprise visits are taken. Further action that may be called for on receipt and in the light of the police report about any special *modus operandi* that may have been adopted by the thieves will be taken.

Loans granted by Calcutta Branch of United Commercial Bank to Kinnison Jute Mills Ltd.

6762. SHRI MADHAV PRASAD TRIPATHI :

DR. BIJOY MONDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) is the Government aware that the Chairman, United Commercial Bank has allowed some loans to be granted on political considerations without adhering to the Banking norms ;

(b) is it a fact that a loan of about Rs. 3.50 crores was granted by the Calcutta branch of the Bank to Kinnison Jute Mills Ltd.;

(c) is it also a fact that some ex-Ministers of Union Government were connected with this party ;

(d) if so, the names of the Ministers ; and

(e) whether the loan has been recovered; if not, what is the position of the account ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) The Bank has not granted any loans or advances on political considerations without adhering to the banking norms.

(b) This company was originally sanctioned in November, 1973 certain credit facilities. As the advance became sticky a suit against the company was filed in December, 1976 in Calcutta High Court. The management of the company was restructured and in order to keep the mill going, certain additional facilities were sanctioned in early 1977 to the company under a long-term rehabilitation programme. United Commercial Bank released the finance only after the company acknowledged the bank's dues in the court.

(c) and (d), To the best of our knowledge, no ex-Minister of Union Government was connected with this company in any way. Possibly, the reference is to late Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam whose brother, Shri J. G. Kumaramangalam, is now a Director of the Bird Group of companies. Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam died in an Air crash on 31st May, 1973. The account was taken over by the bank in June, 1974 and Shri J. G. Kumaramangalam was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Bird Group of Companies including Kinnison Jute Mills Co. Ltd. by the Government of India in November, 1976.

(e) The unit has become sick and the proposal for rehabilitating the unit is under consideration of the Government of India, the State Government, Industrial Finance Corporation of India and the Industrial Reconstruction of Corporation of India Ltd. In accordance with the practice and usages customary among bankers and also in conformity with the

provisions of the statutes governing the public sector banks, information relating to individual constituents of banks cannot be divulged.

Earning of excise duty and surcharge and State-wise on tea

6763. SHRI PURNA SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of (i) Black and (ii) Green Tea in India, State-wise i.e. in Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala during the period 1st April, 1971 to 31st March, 1978 ;

(b) the earning of Excise Duty and Surcharge State-wise in total in the above States separately ; and

(c) the sales tax earned by different State on the total tea sold for internal consumption ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG) : (a) and (b), The Statements giving State-wise break-up of (i) Black Tea production from 1971-72 to 1976-77; (ii) Green Tea production from 1971-72 to 1976-77; and (iii) Central excise revenues realised on Tea (excluding Tea Cess) from 1-4-71 to 31-1-78 are attached.

(c) The levy of tax on sales or purchase of goods effected inside a State is a State subject. Central Sales Tax levied on Inter-State Sale of goods is also collected and retained by State Governments. These details are not readily available with the Central Government.

Statement--I

Estimated State-wise production of Black Tea during 1971-72

(Figures in thousands Kgs.)

	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Assam	224,214	239,475	248,784	265,108	263,277	274,465
West Bengal	98,605	99,968	103,006	113,577	107,324	113,639
Tripura	2,665	3,177	3,790	4,155	3,591	4,244
Bihar	1	4	3	35	17	44
Uttar Pradesh	272	451	501	723	385	783
Himachal Pradesh	763	507	444	489	609	576
TOTAL--NORTH INDIA	326,520	343,582	356,528	384,087	375,203	393,721