

abroad. The Inter-Ministerial Committee that has been constituted is to consider and decide all proposals that may be received in this regard.

Dispute between Allahabad Bank and Lily Biscuit Company Private Limited, Calcutta

1804. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether disputes between the Allahabad Bank, Calcutta and Lily Biscuit Company Private Limited, Calcutta were settled in June, 1978 and letters were exchanged in between them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Company has offered substantial margin money for bringing back the industry into its proper health and full operation;

(d) whether the valuation of the properties of the Company have also increased; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to provide actual finance in the interest of industry and its large number of workmen?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). The disputes between Allahabad Bank and Lily Biscuit Company Private Limited were not settled, in June 1978, and the Bank advised the company to submit the audited balance sheets for years 1971 onwards.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

(e) The company has offered to provide Rs. 7.5 lakhs as fresh margin money towards working capital. The bank on its part would consider providing further finance to the company provided certain other conditions stipulated by it are fulfilled by the company.

Shortage of Rubber

1805. SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) why Government have failed to keep a buffer stock of natural and synthetic rubber to meet the country's demands when there was acute shortage of rubber in the country this year;

(b) how much rubber has so far been imported since July this year and what are the Government's plan to ensure that rubber shortage is not felt in the country in future; and

(c) are Government contemplating to have a buffer stock of about one lakh tonnes of rubber with it to meet the rubber needs during slack season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG):

(a) to (c). While assessing the demand and supply of natural rubber and synthetic rubber, maintenance of requisite stock of rubber in the country is taken into consideration. In case of shortage, the deficit would be met by imports. Since July 1978, about 15,000 tonnes of natural rubber have been imported to meet the shortage.

The Rubber Board is implementing several Development Schemes for increasing the production of natural rubber to meet the increasing demand of the industry.

There is no proposal to have a buffer stock of 1 lakh tonnes of rubber.

Revenue from Bidj Leaves

1806 SHRI HARI SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of annual revenue that the Central Government are getting from the Bidj leaves by way of Sales Tax?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Tax on sale or purchase of goods inside a State is a State subject of taxation *vide* Entry 54 of State List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The revenue accruing from the Central sales tax on inter-State sale of goods has also been assigned to the States under Article 269(1)(g) of the Constitution. Among the Union Territories, tax revenues in respect of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Pondicherry and Goa, Daman and Diu do not form part of the consolidated fund of India. As far as other Union Territories are concerned, the Central Government is not getting any revenue from Bidi leaves by way of sales tax.

Proposal to open Tea Auction Centre in Agartala

1807. SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DEB BURMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to facilitating the sale of tea produced in Tripura, an auction centre is proposed to be opened in Agartala;

(b) if so, whether Government have approved the proposal; and

(c) the steps so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) It is understood from a Press Report that the Tripura Government is considering the feasibility of setting up a tea auction centre at Agartala.

(b) Opening an auction centre depends on active participation of buyers, sellers and brokers and is not subject to Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Stop-over at Rupshi on Gauhati-Calcutta Flight

1808. SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any recommendations from the North Eastern Council regarding Third Level Air Service where the traffic potential and the infrastructure facilities are existing with names of places in the Region;

(b) whether the Council have recommended to take steps to improve the existing routes by the Indian Airlines and whether it will cover a stop over at Rupshi on Gauhati-Calcutta flights; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) The Secretary, North Eastern Council recommended 8 places to be served by Third Level Operations. The Committee on Third Level Air Services considered the recommendations from all angles and with slight modifications recommended the following 9 places to be served by Third Level Operations. The report of the Committee is under consideration of Government:

1. *Arunachal Pradesh*

(i) Itanagar (ii) Along (iii) Ziro (iv) Passighat (v) Tezu (vi) Daborijo

2. *Assam—Rupshi*

3. *Meghalaya—Shillong*

4. *Mizoram—Aizawl.*

(b) and (c). Due to fleet constraints Indian Airlines have no plans to operate an air service to Rupshi in the foreseeable future.