

Purchase of imported cars by State Bank of India

3334. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that State Bank of India has recently purchased six imported cars and if so, the cost thereof;

(b) the particulars of the officers who use these cars; and

(c) whether any prior permission of Government was obtained by the State Bank of India for the purchase of these cars and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) to (c). The State Bank of India has reported that of the 12 imported cars the bank at present owns, the first one was purchased second-hand in 1963 and the last one second-hand in 1969, and that no imported car was purchased by the bank recently.

One each of the imported cars has been allotted by the bank to the Chairman, Managing Director and two Deputy Managing Directors and the remaining cars are being used at the Central Office and at the Local Head Office of the bank as staff cars. Under the relevant terms of their appointment the Chairman, Managing Director and the Deputy Managing Directors are entitled for the free use of the bank car for official purposes. If the car is used for the private purposes also, the officials concerned are required to pay the bank Rs. 125 p.m. for the facility if it is a car of 16 H.P. and above and Rs. 75 p.m. if otherwise.

The State Bank of India has further reported that it has taken steps for replacing the old imported cars by Indian made small cars. Being a Body Corporate the State Bank of India is not required to obtain any prior permission from the Government for the purchase of either Indian or imported cars.

Taking over of Tea Gardens in North Bengal

3335. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Tea Gardens in North Bengal are to be taken over by Government; and

(b) if so, names of those Tea Gardens and when these are to be taken over?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Task Force on tea, set up last year for evolving viable and long term strategy for the growth of tea industry and promotion of export, have made recommendations for rehabilitation of closed and sick tea gardens in the country as a whole which are still under examination of Government.

Trade Agreement with Bangladesh

3336. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state,

(a) whether any further Trade Agreement has been entered into with Government of Bangladesh in January, 1974; and

(b) if so, whether a copy thereof will be laid on the Table of the House?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Disparity between I.A.S. and other Class I Officers of Government

3337. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:
SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has since been taken regarding the pay