

cent of the fare, subject again to the minimum and maximum indicated below:—

	Minimum per passenger	Maximum per passenger
	Rs. P.	
Air-conditioned and First Class	7.50	30
Second Class and Third Class	2.50	10

British Tea Planters in India

2081. Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Onkar Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British tea planters in India are not ploughing back their huge profits into the industry and are using them to develop and promote tea gardens in East Africa;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the big planters have combined to depress the prices of Indian tea at London auctions by buying superior Indian tea at low prices and blending it with African or Ceylonese tea and selling the mixture in European markets as Indian tea; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken in the matter as also to secure the position of largest exporter for India?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) The general position is that sufficient funds have not been systematically ploughed back from profits by a number of the tea gardens for their betterment. No special study of the position has been made on the basis of ownership—British or Indian—of the gardens in this respect. Profits earned by foreign companies in India are, as a rule, allowed to be

repatriated to the foreign investors and the tea industry is no exception to this general rule. Government has no means of knowing how these profits are being utilised after repatriation. A few cases of gardens coming up in East Africa bearing the names of some of the tea gardens in India have, however, come to notice.

(b) No such case of combination of big planters has come to notice. Indian teas purchased in the auctions at Calcutta or London are blended with teas of other origin and sold in packets under the brand names of the different packers. The packets do not usually indicate the countries of origin of the teas used in the blend. The question of Indian teas being brought into disrepute by sellers of tea does not, therefore, arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of Fiat Cars

2082. Shri Yashpal Singh:
Dr. Mahadeva Prasad:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., has submitted a plan under which Fiat Car Production could be raised from 750 to 2,000 a month; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise

मध्य रेलवे की छोटी रेलवे लाइन

2083. श्री महाबन्त सिंह कुलवाहू :
क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य रेलवे की छोटी रेलवे लाइनों पर गाड़ियाँ चलाने तथा उन लाइनों की