THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) There is no proposal at present to import tea to meet the domestic demand.

(b) Does not arise.

Securities Exchange Board of India

8287. SHRI P. NARSA REDDY: Will the FINANCE MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation to give teeth to the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and announce norms for the operations of financial institutions:

(b) if so, when the legislation is likely to be given effect to; and

(c) the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The necessary steps for introducing the legislation are underway and it is intended to implement it when passed.

Export Incentives by EPZ

8289. SHRI VASANT SATHE: SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in Hindustan Times dated 4 April, 1990 under the caption "EPZs must provide better incentives";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to provide a more lucrative package of incentives at six EPZs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). An exercise has been undertaken to review the working of the Export Processing Zones with a view to stimulate exports.

[Translation]

Head Office of Small Industries Development Bank

8290. SHRISANTOSH KUMARGANG-WAR: Will the Minister of OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether orders had been issued to open the Head Office of Small Industries Development Bank in Lucknow;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard;

(c) whether any date was fixed earlier to open the said Head Office and if so, the the reasons for not opening this Head Office there;

(d) whether this office is being shifted now from Lucknow; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTEROFFINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHAS-TRI): (a) to (c). Small Industries Develooment Bank of India (SIDBI) has started its operations with effect from 2nd of April, 1990 from its various offices located all over the country. As regards the Head Office of the new Bank of the following provisions exists in the SIDBI Act: "The Head Office of the Small Industries Bank shall be at Lucknow or at such place as the Central Government may by Notification specify".

(d) and (e). The Government is not proposing to change the location of the Head Office of SIDBI from Lucknow.

[English]

Internal Debt Trap

8291 SHRI CHITTA BASU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the States have been caught in the internal debt trap,

(b) if so, the reasons the efor, and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHAS-TRI): (a) to (c) State Governments have been meeting their debt repayment liability mainly out of fresh borrowings. The Ninth Finance Commission has reviewed the debt position of the States as on 31.3 1989 and recommended a number of debts relief measures including re-scheduling/writing off of certain loans outstanding against the State Governments, elongation of the maturity period of future Central loans for State Plans, etc. Action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Commission has been indicated in the explanatory memorandum which has already been laid on the Table of the House along with the report of the Commission

T.V. Viewers in Midnapore District of West Bengal

8292. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROAD-CASTING be pleased to state: (a) whether Government are aware that T.V. viewers in Midnapore District of West Bengal are unable to receive the local Bengali telecasts from Calcutta and can receive only the National Programmes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). Linkage of low power transmitters (LPTs) through microwave circuits to the respective State Capital Kendras for relay of Regional services is not considered cost-effective. Low Power transmitters (LPTs) at Kharagpur and Midnipur, like others LPTs in the State, therefore, relay programmes from Doordarshan Kendra, Deihi via satellite.

[Translation]

Ceiling on Public Deposits taken by Housing Loan Financing Institutions

8293. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ceiling on public deposits taken by the housing loan financing institutions has been fixed for the first time from 1 April, 1589 under non-banking directives issued by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether financial safety has not been provided to housing loan financing institutions under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to remove the ceiling limit?