

(a) The total quantum of production of controlled cloth both by the N.T.C. and the Handloom sector has been fixed at 650 million square metres in the Textiles Policy of March, 1981. The target for production of 'Janata' cloth for 1984-85 was 360 million square metres and for 1985-86 it has been fixed at 370 million square metres.

(b) No such specific complaint has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Revamping of Tea Gardens in Darjeeling

\*520. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made so far in regard to revamping of tea gardens in Darjeeling ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ; and

(d) the steps to be taken for revamping the tea gardens ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) The Tea Industry in the Darjeeling has been facing problems on account of higher cost of production mainly because of low productivity due to old age of bushes, most of which are well past their prime.

In order to help the tea gardens in Darjeeling, higher subsidy for replanting and higher development allowance for extension planting is being allowed. The Government has also sanctioned a scheme to subsidize interest payable to banks in order to make projects for revitalisation of Darjeeling gardens by replanting, rejuvenation and extension planting viable. Further NABARD has also relaxed various conditions relating to margin money, moratorium and the loan repayment period with the same end in view. The excise duty on Darjeeling tea has also been reduced from Rs. 1.25 per kg. to Rs. 0.20 per kg.

However, the major improvement in the prospects of Darjeeling gardens has come as a result of the considerable improvement in prices of Darjeeling tea in the recent past. Productivity has also registered an increase. While this may have acted as a temporary disincentive in terms of uprooting and replanting in the longer term perspective, the capacity of the industry for making use of the various incentives available for revitalisation of the tea gardens has improved.

#### Guidelines to States for Reduction of Government Expenditure

\*521, SHRI SURESH KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Union Government to State Governments regarding reduction of Government expenditure;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued; and

(c) whether Government of Kerala is following those guidelines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) Government of India have not issued any specific guidelines recently to State Governments regarding reduction of Government expenditure. However, since the overdrafts of States were on the increase, Government of India have informed the States that their overdrafts with the Reserve Bank of India should not exceed the level reached on 28-1-1985.

(c) The overdraft of Government of Kerala has not exceeded the overdraft level reached as on 28-1-1985 for more than seven continuous working days since the instructions were issued.

#### Proposal for New Tea Gardens in Tripura

\*522. SHRI AJOY BISWAS ; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal of the Tea Board to start new tea gardens in Tripura;