

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Production of tea in the country has been increasing steadily. Between 1983 to 1993, there has been an increase of nearly 30% in overall production level in the country with all major tea growing regions showing a steady increase.

(c) In order to increase production, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes. Under these schemes tea gardens are provided financial and technical assistance for overall development. Nature of assistance include term loans, capital subsidy, interest subsidy on bank loan, grants-in-aid etc. for various developmental activities. Besides these, grants are also "being provided to the Tea Research Association for strengthening research activities and in turn augmenting tea production through extension programmes for improving the quality and productivity.

(d) and (e) Approach paper for developmental activities in respect of tea industry, during the Ninth Plan period, has not been finalised by the Tea Board.

World Trade in Computer Software

3543. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total volume of world trade in Computer Software and what proportion of that is accounted for by India; and

(b) what are the estimates of software exports in the coming ten years, and the expected direction of such exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total volume of world trade in computer software and services during 1993-94 was estimated to be about US \$ 250 billion while our exports of computer software and services were about US \$ 329 million.

(b) while exports of software have been growing at an appreciable rate in the last few years, it is difficult to predict what the exports will be ten years from now as exports depend on many factors, both internal and external to the economy. Exports are likely to be to countries such as USA, Japan, Germany, France, UK and Italy.

Dumping of Chinese goods

3544. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in "the Hindustan Times" dated 11th July, 1994, captioned "The yellow menace" to the effect that Chinese goods are being dumped into Indian market to the detriment of Indian manufacturers contrary to GATT provisions adopted at Marrakesh;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment about the extent of dumping of Chinese goods in Indian market; and

(c) which are the main items that are being dumped?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Seven petitions alleging dumping of goods from China were received. Prima-facie evidence of dumping was seen only in three of these cases. The main items alleged to be dumped are Isobutyle, Benzene, Theophylline, Caffeine, Citric Acid and 3, 4, 5 Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde.