

from tea and petroleum oils (including cess on crude) during the year 1986-87 from the State of Assam is approximately Rs. 280 crores. There is no central excise duty on coal.

(b) The share of Union excise duties paid to Assam during 1986-87 on the basis of Revised Estimates is Rs. 239.54 crores. The allocation is not made in respect of individual commodities.

### Ganga Cleaning Project

1355. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain critical remarks made by Mr. David Triggs, Project Director-India of Thames Water International, about the Ganga Cleaning Project which appeared in 'The Times of India' dated December 28, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the contents of the article which appeared in the 'Times of India', Delhi Edition, on 28th December 1987 under the caption "Ganga Project Ambitious: Expert".

Even though the newspaper article specifically stated that Mr. Triggs was not critical of the Ganga Action Plan, since some statements attributed to him appeared to convey that impression, clarification in the matter was sought. We have since received a communication to the effect that Mr. Triggs has been misquoted and misunderstood in several places. Mr. Triggs has also denied making critical references and that his reference to Ganga Project being ambitious was intended as a compliment and not as criticism. He has expressed his regrets for

any misunderstanding that the interview in the newspaper article may have caused.

### Violation of FERA by Kirloskar Company

1356. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kirloskar firm which violated FERA provisions had been fined by the adjudicating authorities; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the company has accepted the guilt and paid the money and what are the details of the results of inquiry and also the details of the action proposed to be taken in other cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):

(a) and (b) M/s. Hodek Engineering Works Pvt. Ltd., Pune was found guilty of contravention of the provisions of Sec. 14, 8(1), 9(1)(a) and 48 of FERA, 1973. A total penalty of Rs. 8.20 lakhs, imposed on the company, has been paid.

The adjudication proceedings initiated in other cases of Kirloskar Group are pending.

### Wood required for curing tobacco leaf

1357. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one tree is burnt to cure every 300 cigarettes manufactured in the country as brought out in Probe-India, July 1987 issue;

(b) whether for every acre of flue air-dried tobacco especially in countries such as India, one acre of forest land is used up for curing; and

(c) whether any study has been conducted to link the spread of desert to tobacco growing and if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps proposed to be taken?