

ment for the extension of the Incentive Scheme (Qualification Pay) to the Technical Officers and others as admissible to the Aircraft Maintenance Engineers. This incentive Scheme was extended to AMEs to motivate them to obtain additional licences on different types of aircraft. This benefit was not extended to Technical Officers and others as these categories were not required to obtain licences not do their duties and responsibilities require possession of any such licence(s). Some of the Technical Officers filed a writ petition before the High Court of Delhi alleging discrimination and paying for Qualification Pay as admissible to licensed engineers. Their petition has been dismissed.

#### Profit earned by Air India

24. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by Air India during the year 1982-83; and

(b) the estimated profit likely to be earned during the year 1983-84?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) The estimated profit of Air India for the year 1982-83 is approximately Rs 36 crores.

(b) Air India expects to earn a profit of about Rs. 50 crores during 1983-84.

#### Short-fall in the export of readymade garments

25. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HAN-DIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports of readymade garments during 1982-83 is expected to fall short by Rs. 150 crores as against the target of Rs. 750 crores;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have agreed to the reported suggestions made by the Apparels Export Promotion Council for lifting the floor price restriction for the shipments to be effected upto 31st December this year; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide reliefs as well as incentives in the light of the latest trends in the export of garments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) The target for export of readymade garments during 1982-83 was fixed at Rs. 750 crores. It is anticipated that the likely achievement during the period would be around Rs. 630 crores (provisional).

(b) Recessionary trends in the economies of the major importing countries and changes in demand pattern and consumer preferences are said to be largely responsible for the decline.

(c) and (d) Floor prices have been rationalised in respect of certain categories. Rates of CCS effective from 1-1-83 have since been announced. The current Import Policy allows duty-free Import of mixed blended cloth for use by the garment export industry under the Advance Licence Scheme for reexport as garments. A larger number of items of machinery for the manufacture of garments/hosiery/made-ups is now available for import under Open General Licence. A number of units have been sanctioned under the 100 per cent Export Oriented Scheme for manufacture of garments for export.

#### Steps to boost tea production

26. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HAN-DIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken so far to implement the proposed 15 year development plan designed to achieve the projected output of 1,000 million kgs. of tea by 2000A.D.

(b) what are the proposed additional requirements to reach the target;

(c) what are the proposed additional hectares of new area to be brought under the tea production;

(d) what is the proposed hectareage of area for uprooting and replanting tea plants;

(e) whether the present rate of subsidy given to the tea industry for replantation, rejuvenation, and vacancy filling is adequate to help the industry achieve the projected output; and

(f) what will be the financial involvement for the project and what is the proposed quantum of contribution from the industry?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA):** (a) to (f) No specific scheme regarding a 15 year development plan for the tea industry has so far been approved by Government. However, Government is in touch with the Tea Board and the tea industry to consider the development of the tea sector over the next 15 years.

#### Effect of Global Recession on the Export of Engineering Goods

27. **SHRI BHOJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been forced to export her engineering goods at a lower price because of the current global recession;

(b) whether this fall in the price is expected to hit the country's export prospects and if so, what steps are being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to meet the situation;

(c) what is the estimated total exports of engineering goods to the European countries during 1983-84; and

(d) whether Government consider it necessary to shift from countries where India traditionally exports to new areas for better export promotion of the engineering goods?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA):** (a)

and (b) According to reports received from E.E.P.C., the price realisation on the export of a few engineering items from India have been affected by the current global recession. This is not likely to adversely affect the overall prospects for exports from India.

(c) Total exports of engineering goods to European countries during 1983-84 have been targetted at Rs. 380 crores provisionally by the E.E.P.C.

(d) Exports of engineering goods from India are directed to a large number of countries all over the world. Efforts by exporters to maintain and diversify their markets are encouraged by Government.

#### Refund of advance money by Lohia Machines Ltd

28. **SHRI M. BASAVARAJU:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1983 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1983 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that refund orders issued by Lohia Machines Limited were valid upto 17th February, 1983;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the Company did not check up its records to find out the number of persons who have not been refunded this money;

(c) what are the reasons for not paying the interest on the undisbursed money which is lying with the company since 17th February, 1983;

(d) whether it is also a fact that those who represented for refund of money have been asked to execute an indemnity bond on Rs. 42.50 non-judicial stamp paper for the purpose; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):** (a) and (b) According to