

(b) No time-frame can be indicated in this regard at this stage. The Government is keen to announce a comprehensive North East Industrial Policy at the earliest.

(c) At this stage it is not feasible to indicate the names of industries which are likely to benefit from the new Policy.

Closure of Cinchona plantation

†2743. SHRI SAMAN PĀTHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: .

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Cinchona plantations in the country are on the verge of closure due to less consumption of this medicinal plant within the country as well as abroad;

(b) the number of cinchona plantations in the country and the details thereof;

(c) the present condition of cinchona plantations of Darjeeling and whether Government have any scheme for revival of cinchona industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Cinchona is a medicinal plant as its bark is used in the preparation of Quinine, an anti-malarial medicine. National Medicinal Plants Board, under the Department of AYUSH, has not indentified the cultivation fo Cinchona plant as priority plant for cultivation or plantation under its schemes.

Reportedly there is a Directorate of Cinchona and Other Medicinal Plants under; the Department of Commerce and Industry, Government of West Bengal. As per the information available on the website of Directorate of Cinchona and Other Medicinal Plants it is reported that in 8277 acres of land Cinchona is cultivated.

Decline in Indo-Myanmar border trade

2744. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.