

tual expenditure incurred in case of entertainment at residence and production of vouchers in respect of expenditure on entertainment incurred outside his residence.

Considering the fact that the present Chairman is not drawing any regular salary nor drawing any sitting fee etc., his perquisites as compared to those of officers of the same status in other public sector undertakings are considered reasonable.

Confirmation of ad hoc promotees in Trade Fair Authority of India

2307. DR. BHAIRAV MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 91 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 1980 and state;

(a) whether there is any progress in regard to regularisation/confirmation of *ad hoc* promotees in the Trade Fair Authority of India; and

(b) whether the seniority/recruitment rules of the Trade Fair Authority of India have been formulated and implemented, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Provisional Seniority lists of officers and staff of Trade Fair Authority of India were drawn up and circulated to all concerned for representations, if any. Some factual objections raised by several staff members on the seniority list and Recruitment Rules have been received and these are under consideration of the Authority.

Financial Review of Gnats to Trade Fair Authority of India

2308. DR. BHAIRAV MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the period upto which the arrangement of giving grants to the Trade Fair Authority of India is likely to continue;

(b) whether the financial review has taken place as originally stipulated; and

(c) whether Government are financing the cultural programmes also: if so, to what extent and in what shape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) No, Sir.

Sick Tea Gardens in Assam

2309. SHRI SYED ABDUL MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any sick tea gardens in Assam at present.

(b) what is the total acreage of such sick tea gardens;

(c) what is the total amount paid so far to such tea gardens by way of financial aid, loan, grant and subsidy and on what terms and conditions;

(d) what is the total amount recovered so far from such sick tea gardens and how much is lying outstanding; and

(e) what action is being taken to recover the outstanding dues from the sick tea gardens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (e) A statement is attached.

Statement

(a) A tea garden is treated as sick only after preliminary investigation has established this fact. At present only 4 Tea Estates in Assam have come under the purview of the Tea Act, 1953 and directives for compli-

ance have been issued in respect of three. The management of Chargola Tea Estate in Assam has already been taken over under the Tea Act and entrusted to Tea Trading Corporation Of India Ltd. The affairs of four other tea estates are being looked into in terms of the Tea Act.

(b) Out of the total grant area of 14804.53 hectares in respect of the above mentioned 9 tea estates, an area of 3378.11 hectares is under tea.

(c) to (e) Only two of the above mentioned nine tea estates have availed of financial assistance from the Tea Board, which operates three major Financial Assistance Schemes. The Tea Plantation Finance Scheme and the Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment Hire Purchase Scheme are loan schemes, while outright grant is allowed under the Replantation Subsidy Scheme.

In respect of one of the tea estates machineries costing about Rs. 55,000/- were supplied under the Hire Purchase Scheme subject to Bank guarantee. The total amount of subsidy disbursed under the Replantation Subsidy Scheme was Rs. 1,97,187. A total amount of Rs. 30,387.99 has been repaid under the Hire Purchase Scheme. Of the amount disbursed under the Replantation Subsidy Scheme the tea estate has fully utilised Rs. 1,30,479 and the balance Rs. 66,708 has to be recovered along with interest for failure to complete replanting in Part of the sanctioned area. A suit for the recovery of about Rs. 30,000 under the Hire Purchase Scheme is being filed in the appropriate Court, making the guarantor Bank also a defendant party. The amount represents both principal and interest dues outstanding up to March, 1980. For recovery of the balance subsidy amounting to Rs. 66,708 with interest, a winding-up petition has been filed in the Calcutta High Court.

The other tea estate has availed of Replantation Subsidy amounting to

Rs. 92,580 for 61.72 hectares. A total amount of Rs. 50,138.30 has been recovered as the tea estate was unable to complete replanting in 23.61 hectares out of the total sanctioned area of 61.72 hectares.

For management of Chargola tea estate, TTCI has spent a total amount of Rs. 21.56 lakhs from the date of take-over up to March, 1980.

Tea Gardens taken over by Assam Tea Corporation

2310. SHRI SYED ABDUL MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of tea gardens purchased or taken over for management by the Assam Tea Corporation and what is the amount in vested; and

(b) what is the overall profit made by the Assam Tea Corporation from these tea gardens during the last three years; and

(c) whether any losses have incurred in any such tea garden if so, what are the reasons therefor and what measures have been taken to arrest the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN):

(a) 12 tea gardens have been purchased by Assam Tea Corporation at a total cost of Rs. 330.28 lakhs. The management of 4 tea gardens has been taken over by the Corporation.

(b) and (c) Although there was a profit of Rs. 62.74 lakhs in 1977, there has been an overall loss of Rs. 173.25 lakhs during the years 1977—79. These figures are subject to Statutory Audit. The loss in 1978 was caused mainly by extremely unremunerative unit value realisation due to the general recession in the industry. The loss in 1979 was due to the drastic shortfall in production caused by one of the worst droughts in recent history.