

(b) if so, what other suggestions and demands were made by the deputation; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Other suggestions related to payment of minimum bonus, recognition of trade unions, setting up of independent industrial relations commissions and promotion of voluntary arbitration for the settlement of disputes.

(c) The suggestions are under consideration of Government.

Take over of tea gardens

55. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some tea gardens are lying closed in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri Districts in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the names of those tea gardens and whether Government propose to take over these tea gardens in the larger interest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the available information, three tea estates, namely, Upper Fagu, Pandam and Mohan Majhua in the district of Darjeeling, West Bengal are closed at present.

Presently, there is no proposal to take-over the management of these Gardens.

Loss of Soyabeen oil during transit

56. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 180 tonnes of Soyabeen oil worth Rs. 1.2 million, imported by the S.T.C. from the U.S.A. has disappeared during transit from the Madras Port; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the officers responsible for this loss and what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The case has been referred to CBI for investigation.

Value of confiscated goods lying with Customs Department

57. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of confiscated goods lying with the Customs Department at Bombay and Delhi since October, 1979; and

(b) the quantum of loss incurred during the storage of those goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):

(a) The total value of seized and confiscated goods lying with the Customs Department at Bombay and Delhi as on 31st December, 1979 was Rs. 27.88 crores.

(b) The quantum of loss incurred during storage in the year 1979, in these Collectorates, was Rs. 58,209/-.