

services of Mafatlals and Tatas respectively and paid to them Rs. 2,40,000/- and Rs. 5,237/- respectively.

### Development of Sagar Dwip

262. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Sagar Dwip, the Sangam in West Bengal with its long sea beach attracts lakhs of pilgrims every year;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme to develop it into a Centre of tourist interest; and

(c) if so, what are the salient features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURU-SHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) India abounds in centres of pilgrimage, Sangam Dwip in West Bengal no doubt being one such centre.

(b) There is no proposal in the Central Plan to develop Sangam Dwip as a tourist centre as it attracts mainly domestic tourists, and hence its development would be the responsibility of the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

### New Markets for Export of Tea

263. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken to find new world markets for the export of Indian tea; and

(b) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b) The prospects for Indian tea in new markets are constantly being explored by the Tea Board's offices abroad and through Indian Missions. Recently,

efforts have been made to explore markets in Pakistan, Libya, South Korea and Chile. Our exports to Pakistan were valued at Rs. 5.74 crores in 1976-77 and a beginning has been made in the Libyan and Chilean market. Result of our efforts in South Korean market is awaited.

### Development of Darjeeling

264. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps Government propose to take to develop Darjeeling as a premier Centre of tourist attraction; and

(b) whether a Janata Hotel, with sufficiently large number of rooms, is proposed for immediate construction there?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURU-SHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Darjeeling area offers a good scope for promoting trekking. It is thus proposed to develop trekking in this area for attracting both domestic and international tourists.

(b) There is no proposal for the immediate construction of a Janata hotel at Darjeeling. It may, however, be mentioned that tourist centres for providing Janata hotels will be identified after undertaking a survey, and their construction will depend upon the availability of resources.

### Fall in Rubber Prices

265. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the low level of price for rubber is causing a crisis in the rubber plantation industry particularly for the small growers;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Kerala Government to raise the floor