

bulk drugs or raw materials. So far as imported materials are concerned stocks as on 1st October, 1974 were not large except in case of oils and fats and some chemical items. The reasons for accumulation of these are slow lifting of oil and fats by some of the States and reduced demand for some chemicals for instance those required for plastics and paint industry. Efforts are being made to expedite lifting by the allottees. Stabilising prices of products of plantation industries *56. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to stabilise the prices of tea, coffee, rubber and cardamom in the domestic as also in the world market is under Government's consideration; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE

(PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement WORLD MARKET Tea—India has been taking initiative in bringing about a price discipline among the major tea exporting countries under the aegis of the Food & Agriculture Organisation. The Sub-group of exporters which met in June, 1974 had concluded that it was vital for the survival of the industry that effective measures are taken to maintain the real prices of tea. It was agreed to examine in depth a multi-dimensional approach including the minimum export price arrangement, coordination and regulation of marketing, global promotion, the strengthening of auctions in producing countries and provisions for a Market Intelligence Service. The details of these measures are to be chalked out by a working party of important tea exporting nations.

Coffee.—India is a signatory to the International Coffee Agreement and is a Member of the International Coffee Organisation. The Agreement aims at achieving

a balancing of supply and demand of coffee and stabilising its prices in the world market. Cardamom.—The question of forming a World Cardamom Community with a view *inter alia* to secure a fair and reasonable price in the world market for the cardamom producing countries is under examination with the Governments of other countries concerned.

Rubber.—Appropriate measures for maintaining a satisfactory price level for rubber in the domestic market are being taken by Government from time to time. DOMESTIC MARKET There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to regulate the prices of tea, coffee and cardamom. In so far as natural rubber is concerned, Government have notified the minimum prices for various grades of rubber.

Dhawan Committee report on Avro aircraft

57. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state : (a) whether the Dhawan Committee has submitted its report on the evaluation of the Avro aeroplanes :

(b) if so, what are the main findings and recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon!

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) The one man Avro Evaluation Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Dhawan has not yet submitted its report.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Take-over of sick tea gardens *58. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :

SHRI R. K. MISHRA : "Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick tea gardens that have so far been taken over by Government;

(b) what is the amount of compensation paid to the owners: ar.d

(c) what are the criteria followed by Government for declaring a tea plantation as sick and for deciding upon its take over?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :
(a) No sick tea garden has so far been taken over by Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Iron and Manganese ores in Karnataka

59. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate quantity of iron and manganese ores that are likely to be submerged with the coming up of the Supa Dam across the Kali River in Karnataka;

(b) whether the M.M.T.C. has taken steps to find market for this ore before it is lost;

(c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Central Government to authorise the Mysore Minerals Limited, a State Government undertaking, to export low grade iron ore; and

(d) whether the Central Government have any proposal to set up an export processing zone in Mangalore?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

(a) About 100 million tonnes of iron ore and 10 million tonnes of manganese ore.

(b) The MMTC does not envisage any difficulty in exporting the marketable grades of both iron ore and manganese ore extracted from the submersion zone.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Indo-Japan agreement on iron ore prices

60. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 743 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th August, 1974 and state :

(a) whether any agreement has been arrived at between India and Japan in 3—645RSS/74

regard to further upward revision of prices for iron ore to be exported to Japan from India; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement"

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An increase of about 34"; to 40% over the prices of 1973 has been obtained from the Japanese buyers for export of basic and high grade iron ore.

Agreement with Czechoslovakia on avoidance of double taxation of incomes

41. SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether discussions were held with Government of Czechoslovakia for agreement on avoidance of double taxation of incomes: and

(b) if so, what are the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions which were held in New Delhi from 14th to 20th October, 1974 remained inconclusive and will be continued at the next round of talks.

Gujarat Savings unit Private Ltd.

42. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gujarat Savings Unit Private Ltd. has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India to take deposits from public under its various schemes ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) The Miscellaneous Non-Banking Companies (Reserve Bank) Directions 1973, which over-ride chit companies like Gujarat Savings Unit Pvt. Ltd. do not require such companies to obtain any authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India for acceptance of deposits from the public. The Direction