

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a decline in the prices at Calcutta after a sharp increase in prices by the end of September mainly as a result of improvement in arrivals. However, the prices both at Calcutta and in the upcountry markets have been generally not given below the minimum support prices and the levels of last year's.

(b) and (c) The establishment of the Jute Corporation of India and strengthening of the cooperative machinery will, in the course of time enable the jute growers to be less dependent on middlemen. In the interests of exports, it would not be advisable to encourage diversion of lands away from jute. The problem of shortage of foodgrains has to be tackled more on the basis of improvement of per acre yield rather than on a drastic shift from one crop to another.

U.S. Aid to India

567. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cut of about 25 million dollar has been approved by the US Government towards American aid to India for the current year; and

(b) what are the details of the projects and the items of imports that are likely to be affected as a result of the cut?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) No Sir. The U.S. Foreign Aid Bill for U.S. fiscal year 1975 is at present under the consideration of the U.S. Congress. The Aid Bill contains a provision for some aid to India. However, it is premature to forecast the final shape the Bill will take.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of task force report on tea industry

568. SHRI OMPARKASH TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 504 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th July, 1974 and state:

(a) the details of the steps that are being taken for implementing the recommendations made by the task force set up for evolving a viable and long term strategy for tea industry; and

(b) what will be the approximate expenditure for implementing the said suggestions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) The recommendations made by the Task Force on tea industry in Volume-I of its report relate to problems of closed and sick gardens, promotion of tea abroad, and inputs for the tea industry.

In so far as closed and sick gardens are concerned, the proposals for amending the Tea Act in the light of its recommendations are under consideration in all their aspects including financial. The recommendations relating to promotion of tea abroad are kept in view while framing annual promotional measures in this regard. The input requirements of the tea industry are being met to the extent feasible through active liaison with the concerned organisations to ensure adequate and timely supplies.

औद्योगिक प्रतिष्ठानों पर आय कर की बकाया राशियां

569. श्री राजनारायण :
श्री भूपेन्द्र नारायण :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) औद्योगिक प्रतिष्ठानों पर अद्यतन आयकर की कुल कितनी राशियां बकाया पड़ी हैं ; और