

unemployment of over one lakh of workers; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to help the industry ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) Government has seen press reports in this regard and certain representations have also been received. Since the mills are reported to have closed down due to large scale seizure of bales alleged to contain contraband goods, Customs would be deciding these cases shortly. Any immediate ameliorative action is not possible.

SOUTH INDIAN TEA

495. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that South Indian Tea is registering a gradual decline both in terms of quality and quantity;

(b) if so, whether Government has studies the problems involved therein; and

(c) what remedial measures are contemplated by Government to improve the condition of South Indian Tea Industry ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir. The quality of South Indian Tea has been showing the usual seasonal fluctuations. The production of tea in South India has been showing an increasing trend during the last five years and has increased from 91 mn. kgs. in 1967 to 102 mn. kgs. in 1971. However, there has been a decline in production in the first nine months of 1972 by 4.6 mn. kgs. compared to the corresponding period of 1971. This shortfall was due to the strike in the Anamallais Tea Estates in Coimbatore district and the drought conditions in the Nil-girts District of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

INDIAN NATIONALS AND FIRMS HAVING ACCOUNTS IN FOREIGN BANKS ABROAD

496. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The total number of Indian nationals and firms having accounts in foreign banks abroad; and

(b) the number of such Indian nationals and firms who were recently asked by the Reserve Bank of India to close their foreign bank accounts ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) 123 2 individuals and 167 firms/companies are having approved foreign currency accounts abroad.

(b) Recently the Reserve Bank of India advised 67 individuals and 17 firms/companies to close their foreign currency accounts.

CURRENCY NOTES IN CIRCULATION

497. SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: SHRI J. S. TILAK : SHRI V. B. RAJU : SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MUSA-FIR : SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of currency notes denomination-wise in circulation as on 1st April, each year during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : A statement showing the denomination-wise circulation of currency and Bank Notes as on 1st April each year during the last three years is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Denomination	(In pieces of Notes)		
	1st April, 1970	1st April, 1971	1st April, 1972
Re. 1/ . .	207,20,10,084	219,57,84,121	234,38,61,887
Rs. 2/ . .	32,78,32,911	34,72,61,488	33,19,52,969