

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether an agreement in this regard has been signed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Japanese Trade Mission visited India from January 5, 1969 to February 1, 1969, to study specifically the prospects of increasing further the exports from India to Japan of pellets, salt, leaf tobacco, prawns, shoe casings, oil cakes, precious stones and vegetables and fruits. The Mission would report their findings to the Japanese Government. However, during discussions with the Mission, it transpired that the Mission felt that there was a considerable potential for the growth of exports of the above-mentioned products from India to Japan.

(c) and (d) The Mission was a fact-finding mission, and no agreement was signed.

TATA'S COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC POLICIES

*144. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: SHRI
K. C. PANDA: SHRI S. S.
MARISWAMY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Shri J. R. D. Tata criticised Government's economic policies, for the indecision on vital questions; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) In the last meeting of the Central Advisory Council of Industries held in New Delhi on the 3rd and 4th January, 1969, Shri J. R. D. Tata had

stressed that all constraints against the favourable economic forces which had become visible particularly after our success in the agricultural field, should be removed and where positive action was required, it should be taken quickly and with decisiveness. Shri Tata had also observed that the decision-making machinery of the Government was cumbersome and slow. These observations had been made by Shri Tata mainly in the context of a few proposals such as the small car project, the Tata Fertilizers project, the Korba Thermal Station, etc., decisions of the Government on which were pending. As these are cases involving heavy investment and have far-reaching implications, they require a very careful examination at the hands of the Government before final decisions can be taken on them.

BOROAH COMMITTEE REPORT ON TEA INDUSTRY

*145. SHRI G. BARBORA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the Boroah Committee's Report on the Tea Industry;

(b) if so, whether in view of the serious crisis now being faced by the Industry, Government will grant relief in taxes as suggested by the Committee; and

(c) whether Government propose to abolish the West Bengal Entry Tax on Assam Tea which puts an extra burden on export of tea from Assam?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) The Boroah Committee's Report on the Tea Industry is under examination.

(b) The Committee had made certain interim recommendations. These recommendations and other information available with Government were kept in view while deciding upon reliefs and concessions for the tea industry announced in September last.

(c) This concerns the State Government of West Bengal.