

(2) Grant of loans to small growers to increase their acreage so as to turn their holdings into economic units.

(3) Maintenance Loans are sanctioned to small growers

(4) High-yielding planting materials are given to the small growers at subsidised costs.

(5) Payment of subsidy to the Co-operative Societies for construction of Smoke Houses

(6) Grant of Working Capital loans to Marketing Societies and share capital contribution to the Marketing and Smoke House Societies.

(7) The Board is maintaining regional nurseries and is supplying to the growers high-yielding materials from its own nurseries or collected from approved resources

(8) The Board arranges to supply fertilisers, fungicides and Sprayers to small growers through Cooperative Societies and also arranges for aerial spraying. Free technical advice is given to the growers by the Board. Fertilisers are given to small growers at subsidised rates

(9) The Board has started a Rubber Pilot in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which is designed to be an experiment-cum-demonstration plantation and will establish the technical feasibility of rubber cultivation and also serve as model for other entrepreneurs.

(10) The Board is exploring the possibilities of utilisation of new areas for rubber cultivation. The Board has advised the Governments of the States where certain areas are considered suitable for rubber cultivation, to release such areas for planting rubber.

2. Besides the above Schemes, Government of Kerala have set up the Kerala Plantation Corporation Ltd with a view to undertake rubber cultivation. Government of India have accepted this as a centrally sponsored

Scheme and are giving 100 per cent loans assistance to the State Government for investment in the share capital of the Corporation. The Corporation has already planted about 15,000 acres under rubber and plans to bring in additional acreage under rubber during the IV Plan Period

#### EXPORT OF TEA

718 SHRI G. BARBORA Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State

(a) what action has been taken by Government to export more tea from India, and

(b) how much extra quantity of tea is likely to be exported from India every year by eliminating the excise duty and export duty on tea?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI) : (a). Some of the more important steps taken to increase the exports of tea are (i) participation along with other producing countries and the local tea trade in Tea Councils, which have been organised to promote consumption of tea as a beverage in certain countries, (ii) undertaking promotional measures for Indian tea through the officers of the Tea Board in the UK, West Europe, U.A.R., the USA and Australia, (iii) taking part in trade fairs and exhibitions abroad, (iv) organising sampling of Indian tea in prominent hotels and restaurants, holiday resorts, etc., on special occasions. (v) advertisements through appropriate media of publicity in countries abroad and (vi) promotion of special packs containing pure Indian tea with the cooperation of the local blenders and packers in selected markets.

The reduction in export duty on tea and the abolition of the special excise duty on tea announced on the 30th September, 1968 are also expected to help in increasing exports of tea

(b) It is difficult to estimate with any reasonable degree of accuracy the extra quantity likely to be exported by eliminating the excise duty and export duty on tea.