

tection chemicals and equipment, etc.

- (7) Immediate action should be taken by Government to import cotton for meeting the conditions of acute shortage confronted by the industry.
- (8) Internal as well as external marketing of Indian textiles should be improved.
- (9) The excise duty should be included in the ex-mill price, while fixing the margins.
- (10) Steps should be taken for increasing exports and checking the continuing decline by making exports more profitable.

† **EXCESS LAND HOLDING BY TEA ESTATES**

147. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the tea estates in West Bengal have in their occupation lands more than what are needed for the plantation of the tea plants;
- (b) if so, what is the quantum of those excess lands; and
- (c) whether Government propose to take any action against the owners or those estates?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) A committee appointed by the Government of West Bengal has estimated that the tea estates in that State have 70,000 acres of surplus land.

(c) Action is being taken by the Government of West Bengal under section 6(3) of West Bengal Estates Acquisition Act, 1953 for resumption of the surplus tea garden lands.

Transferred from the 26th July, 1967.

MARKETING OF TEA IN COLLABORATION WITH CEYLON

508. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

- (a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for marketing of Tea in foreign countries in collaboration with Ceylon;
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof; and
- (c) when the proposal is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

EFFECT OF DIESELISATION ON COAL INDUSTRY

509. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state;

- (a) the extent to which the coal industry would be affected by the dieselisation of Railways;
- (b) the steps Government have taken in this regard; and
- (c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) As a result of dieselisation, the demand for 'loco' coal is expected to go down from the present level of about 17 million tonnes to about 16 million tonnes by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) In view of the indigenous availability in plenty of non-coking coal and the fact that diesel oil has, in part, to be imported, the Ministry of Railways have been requested to make a further review of their programme of dieselisation. The results of the review are awaited.