

TEA EXPORT

*625. SHRI G. R. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of tea exported to United Kingdom during the years 1963-64, 1964-65 and 1965-66;

(b) whether there has been a fall in export during these years, as compared to Ceylon; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Exports of tea to the United Kingdom from India and Ceylon were as follows:—

	(in million kg.)		
	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66
India	116.98	122.54	104.01
Ceylon	76.1	78.2	79.2

(c) The decline in exports from India to the U.K. in 1965-66 was mainly due to the following reasons:—

(i) Reduced availability of tea in India for exports owing to a fall in production of about 7.6 million kgs. caused by prolonged drought conditions in North East India and seizure by Pakistan of about 3 million kgs. of tea in September, 1965 at the time of the hostilities;

(ii) Rising pressure of increasing internal consumption in India, a factor which does not exist in Ceylon

GRANT OF IMPORT LICENCES ON FALSE DOCUMENTS

*626. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. H. N. Pahilaj and Company obtained incentive import licences worth lakhs of rupees by submitting false documents; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against the guilty officers responsible for the grant of the licences?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) No case regarding obtaining of import licences by submission of false documents by M/s. H. N. Pahilaj & Co., has come to our notice.

(b) Does not arise.

DOUBLING OF RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN COCHIN HARBOUR AND COIMBATORE

*627. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPI-DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations from the Chamber of Commerce Mattancherry, Cochin, the Cochin Port Trust, the people of Kerala and the Industrialists at Coimbatore were received demanding the doubling of the Railway line between Cochin Harbour and Coimbatore; and

(b) if so, the actions taken on the representations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) No, Sir. However, a suggestion to this effect has been received from the Managing Director of the Fertilizers and Chemicals, Travancore Limited.

(b) Doubling on the section is not justified at present. However, steps