

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not quite understand the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether the supply of these jet bombers was in partial fulfilment of a previous agreement or there had been a new agreement, that is the question.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: They said that the new agreement signed is itself a continuation of the partial agreement signed earlier. In fact, they have avoided extending it and they have tried to limit it so that they throw you back—I am merely repeating what they said, I am not making a statement here, that this agreement had to be signed in fulfilment of the old assurance given by them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: They say one thing in a diplomatic note and another elsewhere.

May I know whether in that case the Government had cared to examine the press report about the agreement that was signed and the text of which also appeared partially in the newspaper, together with the original agreement that had been signed if any part of it is available and whether it is not a fact that after the protests had been made, the supplies had gone on increasing?

(No reply.)

SALE AND EXPORT OF WASTE TEA

•199. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration for regulating the sale and export of waste tea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): With a view to controlling the sale, offer for sale, buying, holding in stock and export of tea waste, an order known as the Tea Waste (Control) Order, 1959 has been promulgated.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, what is the amount of tea waste that is being exported every year?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The maximum export of tea waste at one time was 23,27,869 pounds and that was in 1955-56. It has dropped down recently—in 1957-58—when the export was 4,29,239 pounds.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, whether any definition has been assigned to waste tea?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Yes. Whatever is waste tea is defined in the order and it will be used mostly for caffeine production and for other industrial purposes.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, to what countries the waste tea is exported?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Several countries, mostly in the Middle East.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, whether any complaints had been received that under the guise of waste tea, high grade tea is also exported? If so, what action has been taken therefor?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: That is exactly why the Control Order had been promulgated.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Is it a fact that some of the British plantation owners are engaged in this business and in the name of waste tea, actually high grade tea is exported?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir.

SUPPLY OF GAS TO CALCUTTA CONSUMERS

f SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: *200. J SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHA-I RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhupesh Gupta.