

[3 March, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

of tobacco by Karnataka considering that 80 per cent of its production is exported owing to the superior quality and inflow of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Government of Karnataka had sought Central Government's intervention for allowing registered and unregistered growers of Karnataka to sell their entire produce of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco by paying normal service charges during the crop season 2002-03 Government has allowed the registered growers to market their produce upto 55 million Kg under normal service charges. The unregistered growers have been allowed to market their produce of unauthorized tobacco by paying of Rs. 2/- per kg as extra fee plus 2 per cent of the sale proceeds of such tobacco as service charges.

(e) No, Sir.

EXPC's Offices in developed countries

1098. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Engineering Export Promotion Council is planning to expand its offices in other developed countries of Europe and America;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when said offices are likely to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003

1099. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tea producers in the country are facing difficulties to sell their produces due to introduction of a new provision in Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 resulting in the closure of many tea estates; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) It is not a fact that the tea producers in the country are facing difficulties to sell their produce due to the introduction of the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 and directives issued thereunder regarding changes in auction rules. The Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 and the changes in auction rules were notified based on the recommendations of a reputed consultancy firm who conducted a study of the primary marketing of tea in India. The objective of the study was to safeguard the legitimate interests of the producers as well as buyers, keeping in view the overall aim of strengthening the primary system of marketing of tea through auctions in terms of transparency and fair price discovery. These measures have been widely welcomed by all sections of the producers, big and small and all the tea growing states. Some tea gardens in the country have, over the last few years, faced closure due to the continuous fall in prices of tea, and increased cost of production. These factors have adversely affected the economy of the tea plantations. The Tea (Marketing) Control Order 2003 is designed to address this problem. After some disruptions initially, the new regime and auction system have settled down with improved transparency and price discovery.

(b) Does not arise.

Environmental safety measures by industries

†1100. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give special incentives to the industries adopting reusable and environment friendly safety measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to give special incentives to the industries adopting

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.