

EXPORT OF PACKAGED TEA

1473. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to promote the export of packaged tea from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the value of packaged tea exported during the years 1967-1968 and the countries to which such exports were made?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Central budget proposals announced on 28th February, 1969 export duty on packaged tea in metal containers has been abolished and export duty on packaged tea in other containers reduced to 5 per cent *ad valorem*. Tea Board's offices located at London, Brussels, New York, Cairo and Sydney also promote the export of tea packs in the regions where potential for direct export exists.

(c) The total value of packaged tea exported in 1967 was Rs. 2.41 crores and in 1968 the provisional figure is Rs. 2.81 crores. Exports were made mainly to Afghanistan, Bahrain Island, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Iran, Muscat, Persian Gulf, Sudan, U.K., West Germany, France, Belgium, Yugoslavia, U.S.A., Australia, Poland, Japan, Fiji Island, Aden, Somali Island, Ethiopia, Nepal and Sicily Island.

RUPEE TRADE BALANCE OF YUGOSLAVIA

1474. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of the rupee trade balance accumulated by Yugoslavia up to the 1st January, 1969;

(b) whether the Government of Yugoslavia have requested for its conversion into sterling; and

(c) if so, what action the Government of India propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Under normal banking practice, it is not possible to disclose the details of the accounts of foreign banks with Reserve Bank of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

NUCLEAR UMBRELLA

1475. SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the recent newspaper reports to the effect that Gen. K. M. Cariappa, former Chief of Indian Army is pleading for securing nuclear Umbrella from friendly atomic countries in the event of nuclear attack on India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(b) Government are aware of the possibility of a nuclear threat to India from China and view with concern China's continued development of its nuclear weapons capability. Government do not consider it necessary to seek any nuclear umbrella. The House will appreciate the Government's inability to make public such measures as may become necessary for safeguarding our security. Government keep constantly under review the situation arising from China's nuclear weapons tests.

P.M.'S TOUR OF PUNJAB DURING MID-TERM ELECTIONS

1476. SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: