

for distribution through Public Distribution System.

It is not feasible to include more items under PDS at the Central level. States and UTs have however, been advised from time to time to consider inclusion of some items of mass consumption in their respective States/UTs for distribution by using the PDS outlets.

#### **Mandal Commission Report**

2211. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to send their views on Mandal Commission recommendations on backward classes;

(b) if so, whether any time-Schedule has been fixed for furnishing the views,

(c) if so, whether any States have so far sent their views; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):  
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Three States namely Tamil Nadu, U.P. and Mizoram have sent their views. They have by and large agreed with the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.

#### **Instant Coffee under F.P.I.**

2212. SHRI R. GUNDU RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government have urged Union Government to reduce excise duty on instant coffee and include the same under the Ministry of Food Processing;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Safety of Fluoridated Toothpaste**

2213. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRI HARISH PAL:  
SHRI RAM SANJIWAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of dangers caused by using fluoridated toothpaste;

(b) if so, whether any research work has been Undertaken by the Ministry or the World Health Organisation on the use of fluoridated toothpaste in relation to dental decay;

(c) whether any clinical tests have been conducted to ascertain safety of the use of fluoridated toothpaste; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to