

DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not correct to say that Indian pepper even when it is of the best quality fetches the lowest price in the international market. In fact, it fetches a price as good as pepper of any other origin.

(c) Government is aware that pepper prices have for the last few years been generally depressed in the international markets mainly due to an over-supply situation. The prices will eventually improve only when there is a better balance between demand and supply. However, Government has on its part been indirectly assisting the growers to realise better price for their produce through the following steps :—

- (1) The cess on export of pepper was suspended ;
- (2) NAFED and Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation undertook Market Intervention Operations ;
- (3) Spices Board has been undertaking various programmes for up-gradation of quality of pepper and for promoting export of pepper in value added form.

(d) and (e) The case for arresting the decline in pepper prices was taken up in the meeting of the International Pepper Community (IPC) recently held in Indonesia.

Small Scale and Village Industries

308 SHRI TARA CHAND }
KHANDLWAL }
SHRI HARISH NARA- }
YAN PRABHU } :
ZANTYE }

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to repeal and review all those laws which hamper the development of small scale and village industries;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard ;

(c) whether there is any machinery to monitor the growth of small and village industries in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a part of the process of implementation of the policy measures for promoting and strengthening Small, Tiny and Village Industries, announced on August 6, 1991, Government have advised all State Governments to undertake a thorough review of all State laws and procedures with a view to rationalise and simplify them in so far as they apply to small and village industries.

(c) The Government has set up a Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries in the Ministry of Industry for monitoring the growth of small and village industries in the country.

(d) The Department is assisted in its efforts by the following :—

- (i) Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries).
- (ii) KVIC.
- (iii) Coir Board.

In addition, at the State level, Directorate of Industries and KVI Boards are also performing monitoring functions.

[Translation]

Production of Paper

309. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the annual requirement and production of paper in the country ;

(b) the quantity of paper being imported annually ;

(c) whether the raw material required for the production of paper is available in abundance in the country ;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to issue licences to set up small paper mills in the country ;

(e) whether the Government have received some applications in this regard ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(g) the action taken by the Government thereon ?