

such as Oil Companies, Coal Companies are also engaged in making available PDS commodities, the administrative cost of which cannot be estimated because such agencies are also involved in other commercial transactions. Every effort is being made to streamline and efficiently undertake the responsibilities assigned to one and all. The interests of the consumers and the end cost of PDS items at affordable level are also kept by the Government in view. Central Government has advised the States/UTs to give preference to cooperatives and Civil Supplies Corporations whenever new fair price shops are opened particularly in rural areas. Appropriate monetary, fiscal policies are initiated for streamlining the distribution operations with a view to reduce the cost of operations of distributing essential commodities through PDS.

### **Granite Quarrying**

\*270. SHRI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to check the granite quarrying in forests in view of the environmental problems and also the loss to our forest wealth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): All proposals received from State Governments regarding granite quarrying in forest areas are carefully examined under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for likely adverse effects on environment and a considered decision is arrived at, after exploring all alternatives to see that diversion of forest land is the barest minimum. The compliance of stipulated conditions like environmental safeguards, compensatory afforestation etc. are closely monitored.

### **Super Bazar**

\*272. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non Plan expenditure allocated for Super Bazar for 1993-94 is less as compared to that of last year;

(b) whether the expansion and modernisation work of Super Bazar is likely to be adversely affected as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION: (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Government does not allocate any funds for Non-plan expenditure to Super Bazar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### **Modernisation of Sugar Mills**

\*273. SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of financial assistance for the expansion and modernisation of the Sugar Mills having less capacity received from Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94;

(b) the number of proposals out of them cleared so far; and