

**Wheat and Edible Oils.**

\*330. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN  
SHARAN SINGH:  
SHRI SATYA DEO SIHGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to give permission for exporting good quality of wheat like durum and edible oils during the current Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government have also fixed any ceiling and the minimum export price for such items;

(c) if so, the details thereof, item-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received any investment plan from the foreign investors and NRIs in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Export of superior varieties of wheat is now allowed, subject to a Minimum Export price (MEP) of US \$ 160 per MT FOB and within a ceiling of 3 lakh MTs during 1993-94. Export of edible oils (except groundnut oil) in consumer packs of upto 5 Kgs is freely allowed.

(d) to (f). Foreign direct investment is permitted in the case of food processing industries to the extent of 51% on automatic basis subject to dividend balancing over a 7-year period. Further, majority foreign equity holding up to 51% by foreign investors is allowed by the Reserve Bank of India for export houses, trading houses and star houses.

Approval has been accorded to three parties to establish Export Oriented Units with NRIs collaboration as detailed below:-

s. No.	Name of the party	Item of manufacture	Amount (Rs. lakhs)	Equity
1.	Madhya Pradesh Glychem India Ltd.	Soyabean solvent Extract oil & Soyo deoiled cake	100	9%
2.	Richi Corporation	-do-	152	11.52%
3.	National Steel Inds. Ltd.	-do-	325	10%

Approval has also been accorded to M/s. Continental Grain Company to establish a wholly owned subsidiary in India for trading and export of agricultural commodities with foreign equity participation amounting to US \$ 1 to 2 million.

[English]

**Unviable Branches Of Public Sector Banks**

331. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the unviable loss-making branches of the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the number and details of the branches identified so far for closure:

(c) whether the bank employees have decided to give a nation-wide strike call to protest against such closure of bank branches;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that bank branches which have been chronically incurring losses and are unlikely to improve their financial position are to be converted by the banks concerned either into 'recovery' branches or closed down. The number of such branches is 102. Bank-wise details of such branches are given below:-