

tries/Departments, State Governments, Reserve Bank of India, Small Industries Development Bank of India and other concerned agencies.

[*Translation*]

### **Abolition of Licensing System**

\*195. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small and big industries are likely to be affected as a result of abolition of licensing system in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The abolition of industrial licensing system is not expected to affect adversely either small or big industries. On the contrary, the exemption from licensing will be particularly helpful to many dynamic small and medium entrepreneurs who have been unnecessarily hampered by the licensing system.

### **Consumer Price Index**

\*196. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:  
SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRI-  
YAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the base year for the current series of Consumer Price Indices;

(b) since when this base year was adopted;

(c) whether the Government propose to have a new base year and also to revise the

existing methodology adopted to arrive at the Consumer Price Index; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):  
(a) 1982.

(b) The base year was introduced from October, 1988.

(c) There is no such proposal for the present.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

### **Investment by NRIs**

\*197. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY:  
SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the NRIs to invest in heavy industries in India;

(b) if so, the number of Non-Resident Indians so far permitted to start such industries; and

(c) the details of the scheme drawn up in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). Government of India in Ministry of Finance have decided to permit Non-resident Indians and Overseas Corporate Bodies Predominantly owned by them to invest upto 100% of the equity in high priority industries and other industries, subject to the conditions laid down vide Press Note dated 28th October, 1991.

Since the setting up of the Special Approvals Committee (NRI) in November, 1983, 1101 Approvals have been granted under the NRI Scheme.

**Shelter to Pavement Dwellers**

\*198. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:  
Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme in operation for providing shelter to pavement dwellers in major cities.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the allocations made therefor to the Union Territory of Chandigarh during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). A Central sector scheme is in operation for the construction of night shelter and sanitation facilities for pavement dwellers in all major urban centres where there is concentration of footpath dwellers. Under this scheme, financial assistance is given to various local bodies through HUDCO in the form of loan and subsidy for provision of night shelters and sanitation facilities.

(c) No State/UT wise allocation of funds is made for implementation of this scheme. In so far Chandigarh is concerned, only one scheme had been received by HUDCO and this was sanctioned during 1990-91. The scheme involves a project cost of Rs. 16.42 lakhs for construction of night shelter to benefit 200 footpath dwellers; and the UT Administration has only requested for central subsidy. The subsidy will be released after necessary documentation is completed by the U.T. Administration.

**Sick Sugar Mills**

\*200. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:  
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sick sugar mills in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in the number of sick sugar mills in the country;

(c) the names and number of sick sugar mills which have been revived or taken over by the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the revival of the remaining sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, companies which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR has reported that since 1987, 12 references have been received in which appropriate action is being taken under the provisions of the aforesaid Act. List of such factories is given in the Statement.

Information regarding sick sugar factories in the cooperative and Public Sectors is not maintained.

(b) (c) and (d). Sickness in the sugar industry can be due to such factors as un-economic capacity, inadequate cane availability, poor condition of plant and machinery, inefficient management, low recovery percentage of sugar from sugarcane, etc.

During the last three years, no sugar