

tion for setting up of a fruit processing unit in Dindigul.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Essential Commodities through Fair Price Shops

*435. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

DR. SUDHIR RAY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to supply all essential commodities through Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Fair Price Shops are proposed to be opened in rural areas as in urban areas;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) :

(a) to (e). Six key essential commodities, viz. wheat, rice, kerosene, levy sugar, imported edible oils and soft coke are supplied by the Central Government to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, who in turn arrange for their distribution to consumers. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are free to add, on their own, additional items of mass consumption, taking into account local preferences.

The strengthening and streamlining of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is a continual process. The Central Government has been advising State Governments/UT Adminis-

trations, among other things, to expand PDS outlets in uncovered/undercovered areas and to use mobile vans whenever possible in remote and tribal areas, etc.

[*English*]

Foreign Investment in Public Sector Undertakings

*436. SHRI V. N. SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow 51 per cent equity participation in Public Sector Undertakings by multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Public Sector Undertakings; where foreign investment is proposed to be allowed, have been identified;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the names of the multinational companies which are proposed to be allowed to invest in these Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Decline in Production in Public Sector Undertakings

*437. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the continuous losses, decline in production and labour resentment in various Public

Sector Undertakings:

(b) whether any study had been conducted by the Government to look into these problems:

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps contemplated to make these Undertakings profitable and to increase their production under the New Industrial Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) The Central Public Sector Enterprises are on the whole making profits with increased value of production since 1981-82. There is no general labour resentment in the public sector enterprises.

(b) and (c) The financial, production performance and labour issues are constantly monitored for improvement. Enterprise—specific action is taken by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department. Some of the important measures taken are financial, managerial and organisational restructuring, technological upgradation, energy conservation, modernisation, etc. A system of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being implemented to confer greater autonomy and commensurate accountability on enterprises and evaluate their performance comprehensively on the basis of an understanding so that necessary action for better performance is taken well in time.

(d) In the new Industrial Policy, public sector enterprises which are unlikely to be turned around will for the formulation of reviving/rehabilitation scheme be referred to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) or other

similar high level institution created for the purpose. A social security mechanism will be created to protect the interests of workers likely to be affected by such rehabilitation packages. Wider public participation of public sector shareholdings through mutual funds, financial institutions, the general public and workers is also being considered.

[English]

Hill Sub-Plan for Autonomous District Council Areas of Assam

*438. **DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:** Will the Minister of PLANNING and PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a separate Hill Sub-Plan for the Autonomous District Council areas of Assam which is finalised without any consultation with the representatives from the District Councils;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to finalise the said Sub-Plan after consulting the Executive Head of the Autonomous District Council; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BIHARDWAJ):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is already being done.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Roads

*439. **SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:**