

<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of letters received by Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Month</i>	<i>Final Replies were given, month-wise by Ministry of Law, Justice & Company No. of letters received Final</i>
14. January, 1992	70	14
15. February, 1992	31	7
Total	694	139

Settlement of Cash Compensatory Support Claims

2796. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI SASHI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a strategy to settle over Rs. 1000 crore of pending claims of ash Compensatory Support has been finalised by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme;

(c) to what extent the disbursement of CCS claims to exporters will be made;

(d) whether the Finance Ministry has been asked to increase CCS allocations so that settlement can be made; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). In December 1991 various licensing offices had projected fund requirement for payment of pending CCS claims around Rs. 1190 crores. Ministry of Finance was accordingly approached, for release of the requisite funds. A sum of Rs. 410 crores was released by the Ministry of Finance on this account and the same has been disbursed to various licensing offices

in Jan, Feb., 1992. A further sum of Rs. 260 crores has been provided in the RE for 1991-92 and Rs. 300 crores in the BE for 1992-93. Further allocation of funds will be made to various licensing offices on receipt of the same from the Min. of Finance.

[*Translation*]

Reduction in number of Employees in Various Departments

2797. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any committee to make a review for reducing the number of employees in various Departments of Commerce Ministry;

(b) if so, the time by which the aforesaid committee has been asked to submit its report; and

(c) the criteria adopted by the committee for reducing the number of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). A departmental Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Controller of Imports & Exports and consisting of four others namely JCCI & E (CLA), New Delhi, Deputy Secretary (Admn.), Ministry of Commerce, Deputy

Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Commerce and Jt. CCI&E(Admin.) has been constituted to assess the workload of CCI&E (now DGIT) organisation and its staff requirement in the light of new Trade Policy. The Committee has not been given any time frame to submit its report but is expected to give its recommendations as early as possible. The Committee is expected to take all relevant criteria into account while presenting its report.

[English]

Structural Adjustments in Agricultural Field

2798. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank, the International Monetary fund and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff have suggested some structural adjustments in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the above agencies have also suggested free trade in agricultural items; and

(d) if so, its likely effects on the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). There is no suggestion jointly from the World Bank, the IMF and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on structural adjustment in the field of agriculture. However, in August, 1991, the World Bank prepared a Country Economic Memorandum entitled "Agriculture - challenges and Opportunities" covering some aspects of agriculture in India. Some of the main recommendations concerning the agriculture sector relate to increasing overall allocations for agriculture, selective opening up

of agriculture sector to the world markets, improving the efficiency of agricultural investments, rationalising subsidies and targeting them towards deserving people, diversification of agriculture to meet the growing demands, providing better incentives to farmers for crop production and revitalisation of rural banking. The Report advocates integration of Indian agriculture to the rest of the World' agriculture economy and places major emphasis on market signals and privatisation as a guiding factor for promoting investments in agriculture.

Some of the recommendations of the Report relating to improving the efficiency of agricultural investments are consistent with the Government of India's policies on agriculture. However, integration of Indian agriculture to the rest of the World Agricultural Economy has to be selective and reciprocal. Similarly, while markets and privatisation have their role, there are certain limitations in their functioning in Indian agriculture, particularly in the case of rain-fed agriculture.

In the Uruguay Round, the proposals on trade in agriculture put forward by Mr. Arthur Dunkel, Director General, GATT envisage progressive reduction of levels of protection and subsidisation of agriculture by the GATT member countries. It is further proposed that countries with a balance of payments problem would be allowed to use quantitative restrictions on imports. For developing countries the proposals envisage special and differential treatment in terms of exemption of certain policies and higher de-minimis level below which they are not required to undertake any commitments.

Analysis of the Dunkel text by Government has led to the conclusion that India would not be adversely affected by the proposals on trade in agriculture.