

(a) whether the Government have stopped the supply of edible oils, notably palmolein, for public distribution system (PDS) for the last four months, and

(b) if so, the measures taken to import edible oils to meet the demand of consumers through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is exploring various possibilities for import of edible oils.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Centrally Sponsored Schemes Into Rural Development Schemes

6649. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested the conversion of all centrally sponsored schemes into rural development schemes which are being implemented by the Union Government at village or panchayat level;

(b) if so, whether the planning Commission has also suggested that the funds earmarked for such schemes may be given to the state Governments concerned;

(c) whether the local institutions are in a position to implement such schemes; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to enable the local institutions to implement such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PRO-

GRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being reviewed in consultation with the Central ministries and State Governments in order to separate those which should be retained as Centrally Sponsored from other schemes which should be transferred to the state/local level.

(c) and (d). At present the rural development programmes are implemented through District Rural Development Agencies, and/or Zila parishads and panchayats at the local level. However it is proposed to strengthen the Panchyat Raj Bodies and for this purpose, a Constitution Amendment Bill is likely to be introduced shortly.

[*English*]

Industrialisation of Wardha district of Maharashtra

6650. SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAOGHANGARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to states:

(a) whether Wardha District is one of the most industrially backward districts of Maharashtra;

(b) whether for its industrial development it was declared as a Gandhi District' around about 1987 and a sum of Rs. 144/- crores was sanctioned for the same; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the said 'gandhi District' Plan and the extent to which it has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J.KURIEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The State Government of Mharashtra is implementing a scheme called "wards District Plan" based on Gandhian

principles. A provision of Rs. 17 crores was made in the 7th plan for this scheme. The salient features of the scheme are:

- (i) Village self-sufficiency, labour intensive agrobased industries and non-land based employment
- (ii) The structures is based on Vinobaji's dictum of Panchayat aktis
- (iii) The plan consists of schemes based on Gandhian principles but donot form part of regular district plans and are devoid of modern technology.
- (iv) The schemes undertaken are contributory to the village self-sfficiency ideals, which are intergral parts of Gandhian of rural reconstruction. A cumulative expenditure of Rs. 608. 26 lakhs has been incurred under the schema during 1986-90 for various projects like crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy development, forests, irrigation, etc.

Incentives to Women entrepreneurs

6652. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives being given by the Government to women entrepreneurs for setting up-export oriented industries; and

(b) the number and details of women entrepreneurs in Rajasthan at present, especially from Hadoti region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) Various incentives offered to export-oriented units like Land allotment, financial assistance, export incentives etc. are also available to Export-oriented units

set up by Women Entrepreneurs.

(b) Details of such units are not maintained centrally.

Development of Desert Areas

6653. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement some new schemes for the development of desert areas in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for these desert development schemes during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The Government has been implementing the Desert Development Programme for the development of desert areas in Rajasthan. No other new scheme is proposed.

(b) The Desert Development Programme is in operation in 11 districts covering an area of 209.750 sq. km. An amount of Rs. 38 crores has been allocated to the programme in Rajasthan during 1991-92.

Inclusion of Local Taxes in the Printed price

6654. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumers all over the country are still being made to pay 10 per cent to 20 per cent more than the maximum retails prices printed on the packages in the name of 'local' taxes extra' despite the GOI's notification of May 1990 amending the Weights and Measures Rules, 1977 forbidding such extra charges after November