

data to delineate a list of industrially backward districts and also for periodical review of the list of backward districts, a Cell be set up in the Planning Commission with representation from the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Finance on a continuing basis. The set of criteria indicated above may serve as a starting point.

[English]

Import of Cars

1746. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow import of second hand cars;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any survey of such imports and their impact on indigenous industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Import of Cars including second hand cars is allowed only by categories of persons/institutions as specified in Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 21-ITC(PN)/92-97 dated 26.6.92 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions as laid down therein. Copy of this Public Notice is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d). Since the import of second-hand cars is confined to specific categories only, such imports are not likely to have any adverse impact on the indigenous industry and no survey has been made in this regard.

Closure of Industries

1747. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating measures to allow industrial units to close down without prior permission from the Government;

(b) if so, whether any protection of workers has been contemplated;

(c) whether opinions of workers on this have been elicited; and

(d) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). Based on the recommendations of Ramanujam Committee on 'New Industrial Relations Law' and deliberations held in various forums and after considering the report of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Restructuring, specific proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 have been formulated and are under consideration. These proposals are based on extensive discussions with the representatives of workers' and employers' organisations as well as the State Governments.

Foreign Visits by Bureaucrats

1748. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ever issued instructions that senior bureaucrats should not go abroad frequently; and

(b) if so, the details of such latest instructions together with the objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Instructions have been issued from time to time to regulate foreign travel of govt. officials with a view to ensuring that officials are deputed abroad only when it is absolutely necessary and the matter cannot be handled by Indian Missions abroad. The number of such deputations and the period of such visits abroad is required to be kept to the minimum to achieve utmost economy in expenditure.

Indian Council of Arbitration Act

1749. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the likely prospects of the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) Act, 1940 in the present context of the globalisation of the Indian economy;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend the Indian Council of Arbitration Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no statute by the name 'Indian Council of Arbitration Act, 1940 in the Indian Statute Book.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Exit Policy

1750. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision in regard to the proposed 'Exit Policy';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). There is no policy that can be termed as 'Exit Policy' in the Government. Therefore, the question of taking any decision in regard to 'Exit Policy' does not arise.

Ministry of Labour is formulating a new Industrial Relations Law with the objective of increasing productivity, generating employment and establishing harmonious industrial relations.

Financial Assistance to Women Entrepreneurs

1751. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance to women entrepreneurs under the 'Mahila Udyam Nidhi' Scheme has been extended;

(b) if so, the details thereof;