

Import of Oil Seeds

1299. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering import of oil seeds instead of edible oils;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would affect savings of foreign exchange and if so, the estimated savings;

(d) how it is proposed to safeguard the interests of public distribution system against possibilities of inferior quality of edible oil and likely exploitation by the crushing industry in the country;

(e) whether any committee has been appointed to examine merits of this proposal and if so, the names of the members of the committee, their scope of its examination;

(f) whether some multi-nationals are also showing interest in such import; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The proposal for import of oilseeds instead of edible oils has not been accepted by Government.

(b) to (g). Do not arise.

Self Employment Scheme

1300. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken some steps to make improvements in the existing self employment scheme;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether voluntary organisations are proposed to be involved for the effective implementation of self employment scheme; and

(d) the role proposed to be played by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The following improvements have been made in the original scheme for self-employment of educated unemployed youth:

- (i) The ceiling for loans to set up industrial ventures has been raised from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 35,000/-;
- (ii) a minimum of 30% of sanctions has been reserved for S.C./S.T beneficiaries;
- (iii) family income limit of Rs. 10,000/- per annum has been prescribed as an eligibility criterion;
- (iv) ITI passed beneficiaries are also eligible to set up industry and service ventures under the scheme.

(c) It is not proposed to involve voluntary agencies in the effective implementation of the Self-Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth.

(d) The scheme is working successfully through District Industries Centres

Assessment of FCI Godowns

1301. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh assessment has been made to fix the norms of storage losses in the Food Corporation of India

godowns in view of the vast improvements made in the storage technique;

(b) if so, what are the permissible limits per ton in storage; and

(c) how much less it would be applying in improved methods and the quantum of loss that can be avoided and its money value?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c). The Food Corporation of India entrusted National Council of Applied Economic Research with an experimental study on losses during handling, transportation and storage of food-grains. The study makes a fresh assessment to fix the norms of storage losses in the Corporation. Final report is awaited.

Revitalisation of Scooters India Ltd.

1302. SHRI R. M BHOYE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided in principle to revitalise the loss-making Scooters India Limited rather than going in for privatisation as has been proposed earlier;

(b) whether the Scooters India Limited is a perennially losing public sector unit and has not made profits since its inception;

(c) whether the rehabilitation package for the unit has been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO): (a) to (e). The Scooters India Limited have been incurring losses

continuously since inception. It will not be in the commercial interest of Scooters India Limited to disclose various options available regarding its future.

Opening of Post Offices in Seventh Plan

1303. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Gram Panchayat villages in the country are without a single post office in them;

(b) if so, the number of Gram Panchayat villages in each State, District-wise which do not have a single post office in them;

(c) whether Government would ensure that each Gram Panchayat village has at least one post office by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the likely expenditure on this score; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the strategy adopted by the Department of Posts for ensuring a reliable dak system including the facility of posting of letters and receiving the delivery of dak every day at least by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): According to a recent survey, there are 1,14,364 gram panchayat units in the country which have a post office and 74,687 gram panchayat units which are served by post offices established within the neighbouring gram panchayat units.

(b) The required information Circle-wise is presented in Statement-I below. District-wise figures are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The programme of opening the post offices in rural areas followed by the Department is based on norms which are