

[Translation]

**Visit of Central Team to Uttar Pradesh**

3779. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 484 on 31 March, 1987 regarding supply of essential commodities in Uttar Pradesh and state :

(a) the evaluation made by the central team which visited the State of Uttar Pradesh to look into the complaints of Public Distribution System ; and

(b) the action taken by Union Government on the findings of the team ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) A Central Team visited Gonda and Muzaffarnagar Districts of Uttar Pradesh on 1st and 6th July, 1987 for an on the spot assessment of the availability of essential commodities being distributed through fair price shops. During the visit of the team, it was observed that sugar, controlled cloth, kerosene and imported edible oils were being distributed through the fair price shops. Rice and wheat were being distributed depending on their demand. The Central Team has given some suggestions for streamlining the public distribution system in the State, have been sent to the State Government for necessary action.

**White Paper on Public Sector**

3780. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a high power committee has been entrusted the work of preparing the white paper on working of public sector ;

(b) if so, the number of meetings of this committee held so far, and

(c) the time by which the white paper is likely to be prepared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) An Inter-Ministerial Committee of Secretaries had been constituted to finalise the draft white paper on public enterprises. The Committee held 13 meetings so far.

(c) A Draft White Paper has been prepared which has to go through various stages before it is finally presented to Parliament. A precise time limit for presenting the White Paper to Parliament cannot be indicated.

**Price Control on Soft Coke**

3781. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Advisory Board of Energy has recommended that the price control on soft coke should be removed and it should also be produced in the private sector on competitive basis ;

(b) whether use of soft coke would be encouraged by increasing its production with a view to minimise the use of firewood obtained from forests ;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Yes, Sir, Recommendations of Advisory Board on Energy include removal of the control on pit-head price of soft coke and encouragement to private sector to instal mechanised plants to produce soft coke.

(b) to (d) To coal companies are being directed to increase production of the soft