

Consumers Cooperative Federations to provide technical guidance and managerial and business support to the Consumer Cooperatives at the lower levels.

(ii) The financial assistance provided by the Government of India under the scheme will be over and above the State plan ceilings. The introduction of this Centrally Sponsored Scheme should not in any way result in reduction or curtailment of the normal programmes of the State Governments for the development of consumer cooperatives, the proposed Central assistance being only selective to supplement the State Sector programmes.

(iii) The institutions taken up for intensive development under the scheme will have to fall in line with administrative, accounting, and operational procedure and plans of development that may be drawn up in this behalf by the Government of India or the Consultancy and Promotional Cell of the National Co-operative Consumers' Federation, or any other expert agency that may be utilised for assistance in this behalf.

(iv) The assistance to be provided to selected institutions under the scheme will be based on project reports and programmes of development prepared for each institution by the State Governments, on expert advice.

(v) Assistance to be given to State Consumer Cooperative Federations will be related to the business turn-over and growth potential of each Federation. Pooling purchases and building up of buffer stocks would require opening of distribution centres/warehouses. Assistance according to the requirements of each Federation for construction of business premises and branch-cum-godowns will be provided.

(vi) The institutions selected should have a growth potential and should have a concrete plan for expansion of their business activities, which could be in the form of opening additional retail units as also expansion of the lines of business of the existing units, with the due regard to local demand and viability.

(vii) Financial assistance under the scheme is also being provided to consumer cooperatives for—

(i) establishment of Common Kitchen Centres for students in Universities and degree colleges;

(ii) setting up of small scale industrial units for processing agricultural products and producing consumer articles.

2. During the current year priority has been accorded for organisation of a large number of small branches (Janatha Shops) in selected areas for the benefit of weaker/weakest sections of the population.

Panel of Income Tax Officers

1644. SHRI NATWARLAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce the system of panel of Income Tax Officers for each jurisdiction instead of single Income Tax Officer for each jurisdiction to avoid the possibilities of monopolistic corrupt practices; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.