

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Presumably, the reference is to the examination conducted for making appointments to the posts of Lower Division Clerks in the Income Tax Department, against the 10 per cent quota reserved for Group D employees, Notice-Servers and Staff Car Drivers in the Department, in accordance with the general scheme formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs which is applicable to all Central Government Departments. As per the scheme, the examination is conducted once in every year and the panel of successful candidates is kept valid till the next examination is held. Candidates unable to secure appointments during the validity of the panel may re-appear in the examination in any subsequent year/years provided they are otherwise eligible to appear in the subsequent examinations.

(b) and (c). Departmental employees passing the department examinations are not required to appear in such examination again for purpose of promotion to higher grades, as these examinations are qualifying in nature passing of which is only one of the conditions for becoming eligible for promotion. The scheme for the departmental examinations is administered by the department itself, unlike the examination conducted for appointments to the grade of L.D.C. against the 10 per cent quota reserved for Group D staff. The latter is a competitive examination and it is now conducted by the Staff Selection Commission. As the scheme for the examination is common and applicable to all Central Government departments, no exception can be made in the case of employees of the Income Tax Department alone.

(d) and (e). The representations made by the West Bengal Income Tax Class IV Employees Association in this regard have been considered by Government, but the request has not been found acceptable.

Check on Exorbitant Profits by Public Sector Undertakings

1572. **SHRI S. S. SOMANI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to be pleased to state what steps Government are taking to check the exorbitant profits being made by the public sector undertakings and thus bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): It is not correct to say that Public Enterprises are earning exorbitant profits by charging high prices. On the contrary, in major sectors like coal, oil, fertilizers, Government have intervened to restrict price increases, even though justified by cost escalations, as a counter inflationary measure, to promote production in crucial sectors and to protect the weaker sections of society. Where public enterprises operate in monopolistic sectors, there are generally procedures for formal or informal price control.

Number of Exporting Firms Registered with Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Council

1573. **SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the exact number of exporting firms registered with each commodity Board and Export Promotion Council as on 1st January, 1978;

(b) how many of the registered exporters with each registering authority on this date were sole proprietorship firms, partnership firms, private and public limited companies;

(c) how many exporters under the jurisdiction of each registering authority were manufacturer-exporters and how many merchant-exporters; and

(d) how many exporters under the jurisdiction of each registering authority