

public in accordance with the Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 1975.

(b) Cotton Corporation of India, Andrew Yule and Company, M/s. Balmer Lawrie and Steel Authority of India Ltd. have come forward with schemes for acceptance of deposits from public.

(c) The pattern of rates of interest would be comparable to those offered by the best private sector companies. In case of employees and ex-employees of the public sector units the rate of interest could be higher by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

(d) Since the scheme has been launched only very recently it is too early to make an estimate of the amount likely to be mobilised through these deposits.

(e) No information is available regarding public deposits with private MRTP Companies.

Pending cases in Central Board of Direct Taxes of non-payment of Direct Taxes by companies

4844. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases at present are pending before Central Board of Direct Taxes in his Ministry regarding defaulting M.R.T.P. and multi-national companies in respect of non-payment or enquiry into tax evasion in direct taxes;

(b) which are these companies; and

(c) what steps are taken to recover dues impose penalties and expedite cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c).

The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Expansion of cheap edible oil distribution network

4845. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether this Ministry has any scheme to expand cheap edible oil distribution network through even those State Governments which had stopped to do this in the last three years, for instance, in Gujarat;

(b) which other States had stopped distributing oil, soaps and such other necessities under the name of giving scope to free market forces; and

(c) what other steps are taken or contemplated to make States start doing this work?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Under the present scheme of Public Distribution, imported edible oils and certain other essential commodities are being supplied to the consumers through fair price shops at subsidised rates. Various State Governments, including Gujarat have been implementing this scheme in their respective territories. Central Government have not received any information about the stoppage of distribution of soap and other necessities which are being distributed through Public Distribution System in the various States. Arrangements have been made for the supply of these commodities through various agencies, to the nominees of the State Governments on receiving indents from the latter; these nominees in turn arrange to issue these commodities through fair price shops in the various States/Union Territories.