

Reduction of Excise Duty on Tooth-pastes

5232. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that despite the reduction of excise duty on tooth pastes most of the multi-product manufacturers have not brought down prices of their tooth paste brands;

(b) whether 'Forhans' brand producers have not reduced the price so far; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure reduction in the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) Following reduction in the rate of Central excise duty on toothpaste, most of the toothpaste manufacturers have reported that they have brought down prices of various brands of toothpastes manufactured by them.

(b) M/s. Geoffrey Manners and Co. Ltd., who produce 'Forhans' brand of toothpaste, have also reported reduction in the price of their toothpaste.

(c) In view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Result of Special Employment Programme

5233. SHRI B. R. NAHATA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the result of the special employment programme for the educated and uneducated unemployed during the years 1971-74 and the total amount provided for the schemes and spent thereon and the results achieved; and

(b) are Government taking up any such further programmes this year and in subsequent years?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI N. D. TIWARI): (a) The Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Government of India have carried out evaluation studies of the following Special Employment Programmes:

(i) Special Employment Programme for the Educated Unemployed 1971-74; and

(ii) Crash Scheme for Rural Employment 1971-74.

Summaries of the findings are at Statements I and II laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1151/80*] The relevant information on Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project is at Statement III laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1151/80*].

(b) The Budget Estimates presented in the Lok Sabha provide Rs. 340 crores in 1980-81 for new National Rural Employment Programme; it is estimated therein that the programme, if properly implemented, could generate 850 to 900 million mandays of additional employment. It is further stated in the Budget proposals that some part of the provision for this scheme would be specifically earmarked for high priority programmes like social forestry, fuel plantation, rural community housing and water supply and nutrition. The new Plan 1980-85 is in the formulation stage and schemes for employment are under examination.

Central Assistance Rehabilitation of Victims of Tripura Carnage

5234. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance asked for by Tripura Government by way of money, food and medicine, etc. in order to rehabilitate the victims of recent trouble and carnage there; and

(b) the amount of help already given by Government for the work of rehabilitation in Tripura?