

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) and (b): Government of Tripura had approached the Central Government for financial assistance to rehabilitate the people affected by the recent disturbances in the State. The requirements were assessed at Rs. 2 crores. The Central Government decided to advance a sum of Rs. 2 crores as a special case having regard to the financial position of the State and other relevant factors, subject to review of the actual expenditure in due course. The State Government was also permitted to utilise up to 10,000 tons of foodgrains additionally allocated to the State out of this amount.

State Government has since projected further requirement of fund for assisting the agriculturists who have suffered, as also others who are in need of help including gratuitous relief etc. A Central Team has since been sent to Tripura to make realistic assessment of requirements. The Team is still in Tripura and appropriate action would be taken on receipt of its recommendation.

State Government had also requested for supply of Cholera Vaccine, medicine, milk powder, blankets, dhotis; sarees, etc. These have been made available by the concerned authorities as well as the Indian Red Cross Society. 100 tonnes of skimmed milk powder available with India Dairy Corporation at Calcutta was assured to the State. Release instructions for 1.26 lakhs sq. metres of cloth for dhotis have also been issued by the Textile Commissioner.

The Central Government is alive to the problems of the State and having regard to all relevant factors, would take such measures as the situation warrants.

Installed Capacity of Commercial Truck Producing Industry

5235. SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the installed capacity of the commercial truck producing industry in the country;

(b) what was the production last year; and

(c) what is the total requirement of Truck chassis in the country for 1980?

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

(a) The installed capacity for the production of commercial vehicles including trucks and buses is reported to be about 95,000.

(b) The production of commercial vehicles during 1979-80 was 57,441.

(c) The Working Group on Transport Earthmoving and Agricultural Machinery appointed by Planning Commission has estimated the demand for commercial vehicles in 1980-81 at 73,200.

Assistance to Rajasthan for Development of Backward Areas

5236. SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to lay a statement showing;

(a) the type of assistance rendered to the State of Rajasthan for the development of backward areas during the year 1979-80; and

(b) the type of assistance requested by the State for the year 1980-81?

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

(a) and (b). The State of Rajasthan is eligible to the following Central Incentives to entrepreneurs setting up industries in backward areas. In res.