

(d) Principal reasons for sickness in small scale units include fluctuating demand and supply conditions, lack of managerial and technological competence and scarcity of critical raw materials.

(e) It is not possible to readily quantify the amount of assistance given to the sick units, because such assistance takes various forms and often given as a package for revival of sick unit by various agencies, including Government, viz. waiver of penalty interest, re-scheduling of past liabilities, loan assistance to fill gaps in margins required from entrepreneurs, charging of concessional rates of interests, easier access to controlled raw materials and marketing assistance including Government purchases.

(f) Already cases of sick units seeking assistance on the basis of viable rehabilitation scheme are considered by the State Level Committees consisting of representatives of State Government, Small Industries Service Institutes, concerned banks and the local Reserve Bank of India officials in order to devise a package of measures, to rehabilitate the sick units. Besides, the RBI has recently constituted a Study Group to examine a proposal for creation of a Soft Loan Assistance Fund for providing assistance and rehabilitation to sick small scale units. A margin money scheme for the revival of sick units is also proposed to be formulated.

Relaxation of Cantonment Land Policy

1344. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will he Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of further relaxation of cantonment land policy has been considered by Government;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of Government's decision;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) when the said question is expected to be finally considered and published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The question of further relaxation of land policy is under examination of the Government.

Mechanization in Tobacco Curing industry in Andhra Pradesh

1345. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations regarding mechanization in tobacco curing industry in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the estimated number of workers going to be affected as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Government to prevent mechanisation to avoid thousands of workers to be thrown out of employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) A representation was received from the All India Coordination Committee of Working Women mentioning among other things, enmasse unemployment of women workers due to introduction of machinery in the tobacco industry.

(b) and (c). Information supplied by the Government of Andhra Pradesh shows that a licence was issued to M/a I.T.C. Ltd., I.L.T.D. Division for installing a Greenleaf Threshing Plant at Anaparthi. This is likely to effect 1800 female stemmers at present employed at Anaparthi. The State Labour Department is seized of the situation and they are persuading the management to bring out mechanisation without throwing out of employment the female stemmers.