

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal of freight equalisation policy for the cotton in the 'year of handloom' to promote the handlooms and to improve the conditions of the weavers;

(b) if so, the time by which a decision will be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under consideration in this Ministry. However, the proposal was considered earlier by the Government and the Scheme of freight equalisation for cotton was considered inadvisable.

Committee to Streamline the Working of Stock Exchange

947. SHRI S.A. DORAI SEBASTIAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) when the high-powered Committee was set up to streamline the working of stock exchanges;

(b) whether any report has been submitted by the Committee and if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the number of proposals from non resident Indians which are in the pipeline awaiting the outcome of this Report ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The high-powered Committee on stock exchanges was set up by the Government on the 17th May, 1984. The Committee has not so far submitted any report. The Committee is expected to submit its report within one year from its constitution and, therefore, the question of delay in submission of its report does not arise.

(c) No proposals from non-resident Indians are pending with the Government awaiting the outcome of the report of the Committee.

Recommendations of Public Sector Chiefs about capacity utilisation and Reduction of Inventories

948. SHRI S.A. DORAI SEBASTIAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendations made by the two-day conference of public sector chiefs held in New Delhi on 30-31 May, 1984, particularly about capacity utilisation and reduction of inventories for ensuring sufficient returns on massive investment;

(b) the action proposed to be taken thereon and the steps being taken to establish a link between salaries, wages and productivity; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring about organisational excellence through a concrete production and profit improvement management system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) The conference of Chief Executives of Public Enterprises held in May 1984 INTER-ALI/ recommended that :-

(i) Separate targets for inventory reduction be set for each product/profit centre of the company; inter firm comparisons would be useful in setting the targets.

(ii) Efforts be made in 1984-85 to reduce by 5% in the inventory/sales ratio over the previous year.

(iii) Public Enterprises should make efforts to improve the capacity utilisation by at least 5% in 1984-85 as compared to the level achieved in the previous year.

(b) and (c) Various recommendations which emanated from the Conference have been circulated to the different agencies of Government and the Public Enterprises for initiating appropriate follow-up measures.