

Recommendations of Wanchoo Committee

722. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Wanchoo Committee have been fully implemented;

(b) if not, the reason therefor; and

(c) what positive steps have been taken to unearth the black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). A comprehensive Bill to implement such of the recommendations of the Wanchoo Committee, as have been accepted by the Government, is being introduced in the current session of Parliament

(c) Apart from the above Bill, to be introduced in Parliament, several administrative measures have also been taken; and these include increase in the tempo of searches and seizures, more prosecutions, selective use of powers of survey under section 133A of the Income-tax Act, survey of those who have constructed or acquired new properties, and also creation of a special cell in the Directorate of Inspection (Investigation) for keeping a watch over the tax matters relating to certain big business houses.

Visit of the Minister of Commerce to European Countries

723. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his visit to European countries in the month of January, 1973 met with any fruitful result; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Shri L. N. Mishra, former Minister of Foreign Trade visited London from 12nd to 20th January, 1973 at the invitation of the U.K. Government. During the

visit he had useful discussions with the British Ministers on the trading arrangements in U.K. for Indian products following the termination of the Indo-U.K. Trade Agreement, 1939 and safeguard measures for India's trade in the context of the British membership of the enlarged European Economic Community.

A copy of the Joint Communiqué issued after the discussions is laid on the Table of the House which gives details of the outcome of the discussions. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4252/73].

Interim Relief to pensioners as a result of rise in prices

724. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any interim relief is likely to be given to the pensioners in view of the abnormal rise in prices; and

(b) if not, the reason for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). Government propose to consider the question of grant of relief to the Central Government pensioners in the light of the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission on the question of pensionary benefits to Central Government servants generally.

Raj Committee Report on agricultural Income-tax

725. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken final decision on the Report of K. N. Raj Committee on agricultural incomes;

(b) whether the said Report has been discussed in the recent meeting of the National Development Council; and