

Statement II laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6756/74].

Proposal for Free Trade Zone near Calcutta

7423. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR;

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for free trade zone near Calcutta has been abandoned;

(b) if not, the date when the proposal was taken up, salient features of the proposal and month-wise progress of work made up to date; and

(c) whether any persons have been assigned the responsibility to work out the proposals; is not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). A project report on this proposal was received in April, 1973 from the West Bengal Government. It related to the setting up of a Free Trade Zone in an area of 400 acres in Salt Lake Area near Dum Dum, for the manufacture of a number of products for export, such as Stainless steel cutlery, Hand and Small tools, Builders, hardware, Finished leather Ready-made garments, Scientific and Laboratory equipment, etc. The question of setting up Free Trade Zones has been under the consideration of an inter-departmental Working Group in a series of meetings. The details of the project for setting up a Free Trade Zone near Calcutta are being worked out in consultation with the Government of West Bengal.

Wholesale and Consumer Price Index

7425. SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rise in Wholesale and Consumer Price Index, from October, 1973 to March, 1974 giving monthwise average of 12 months of 8 points;

(b) the increase in the cost of Vanaspati, edible oils, milk, butter, ghee (deshi), rice, wheat, pulses, petroleum products, taxi, scooter fares and cloth registered from October, 1973 to March, 1974;

(c) whether the expenditure on traditional items, such as, marriages, expenses on children's education are not taken into account while computing the cost of living index; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) and (b). Two statements are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6757/74.]

(c) and (d). Only items relating to consumption expenditure on current living are taken into consideration in the compilation of the Consumer Price Index. Thus, items like school fees, stationery articles etc. (covering the expenditure on children's education) are included, but items like expenditure on marriage etc. which do not form current consumption expenditure are excluded.

मध्य प्रदेश में बाढ़ पीड़ित लोगों के लिये केन्द्रीय सहायता

7426. श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने राज्य में 1973-74 की बाढ़ से पीड़ित

क्षेत्रों और लोगों को रोजगार देने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार से कुछ सहायता देने का अनुरोध किया है ;

(ख) यदि हा, तो तत्सम्बन्धी मुख्य बाने क्या है , और

(ग) सरकार ने इन सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० प्रार गणेश) (क) से (ग) राज्य सरकार ने बाढ़ में सहायता देने के विभिन्न उपायों के लिए, जिस में सबधित निर्माण कार्य भी शामिल है , 15.30 करोड़ रुपये के व्यय का अनुमान लगाया था लेकिन भारत सरकार ने केन्द्रीय दल की सिफारिशों के आधार पर अधिक से अधिक 2 44 करोड़ रुपये के व्यय को इस योग्य माना है कि इसके लिए केन्द्रीय सहायता दी जाय । इस व्यय में निर्माण कार्यों के लिए 0 55 करोड़ रुपये शामिल हैं फिलहाल 1.52 करोड़ रुपये राज्य सरकार को दिये जा चुके हैं । महामन्त्रालय द्वारा प्रमाणित किये जाने पर वास्तविक खर्च के आधार पर बाकी सहायता की रकम दी जायगी ।

Loan given by Nationalised Banks to small Farmers, Adivasis and Industrialists in Orissa

7427. SHRI BANAMALI BABU. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan given to small farmers, Adivasis and small industrialists in Orissa during the last six months by the nationalised banks; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to increase banking facilities in these areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Information regarding advances made to small farmers and Adivasis by the nationalised banks is not separately maintained. However, agricultural advances made by the nationalised banks to farmers in Orissa with land holdings upto 5 acres (constituting small farmers) and outstanding at the end of March, 1973 were Rs 3125 lakhs

Advances provided to small scale industries in Orissa by the nationalised banks at the end of September, 1973 were Rs 217 81 lakhs.

(b) In order to accelerate lending in relatively under-banked States like Orissa, the banks have been opening a larger number of branches in rural areas strengthening their organisational machinery by recruiting more technical field staff, simplifying their lending procedures and loan application forms, moving away from security-oriented lending to purposive, productive and incremental income-oriented lending and adopting the "area approach" for evolving programmes for intensive financing

Demand of Indian Goods in Mauritius

7428. SHRI BANAMALI BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increasing demand for Indian goods in Mauritius;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to send a trade team to finalise the terms of trade with that country; and

(c) if so, by what time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) In recent years exports from India to Mauritius have shown a rising trend.