

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export duty on primary and Secondary Carpet Backing after consideration of overall situation, have been abolished. Reserve Bank of India have enhanced the stock limits of finished goods for purposes of credit.

(c) No, Sir

**Hindustan Lever Limited**

9332. **SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign majority concerns are operating in our country, which deal in low-technology, high profit mass consumption sector of our economy;

(b) whether the C.O.B. time period limits of such companies as laid down under the guidelines governing operation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act have long expired;

(c) whether Hindustan Lever Limited having 85 per cent Unilever holding and producing mass consumption items like Dalda, Lifebuoy, Lux, Rexona and Surf is one such company;

(d) whether Hindustan Lever also manages and controls Sharpedge Limited producing Erasmic Blades, which is another mass consumption item and if so, the reasons which have weighed with Government to allow Hindustan Lever Limited with such overwhelming foreign interests; and

(e) by what time Hindustan Lever Limited is expected to be fully Indianised?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM):** (a) to (e). Under Section 29 of the Foreign

Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, all branches of foreign companies operating in India and Indian companies in which the non-resident interest is more than 40 per cent were required to apply to the Reserve Bank of India for permission to carry on their existing business activities upto 31st August, 1974. Some of such companies are engaged in production of consumer goods. Hindustan Lever Limited is one such company and has some equity holding in Sharpedge Ltd.

The application of Hindustan Lever Ltd., made under Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 is under examination in accordance with the guidelines issued under Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

**Setting up of Jute International**

9333. **SHRI BANAMALI BABU:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a United Nations Development Project study has recommended setting up of Jute International;

(b) if so, the draft constitution of the proposed body and the names of countries as its major partners;

(c) the place where its headquarters will be located; and

(d) the main functions and objectives of the proposed Jute International?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):**  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A desk review on the project prepared by U.N.D.P. is under consideration of the participating Governments. Apart from India, Bangladesh and Nepal have signified their willingness to participate in the Jute International.

(c) The proposal is to locate its headquarters in India.

(d) International co-operation in research, development and promotion of jute goods is the main function and objective of the proposed Jute International.

**Discussion with Bangladesh about  
Export of Jute**

9334. SHRI RAM HEDAOO; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion took place recently between India and Bangladesh about the export of jute goods, the price of raw jute and jute manufactures through buffer stock operations; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI  
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During informal discussion India and Bangladesh have agreed to ascertain from I.M.F. the details of the scheme of financing jute buffer stock operations

**Corned Meat Factory in Aurangabad**

9335. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Brooke Bond India has been granted a letter of intent to establish a corned meat factory in Aurangabad involving a total outlay of Rs. 4.5 crores;

(b) if so, whether the entire output of the factory is planned to be exported;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) why a foreign monopoly concern is being allowed to spread out in the name of "diversification" and "export earning"?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI  
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir. M/s. Brooke Bond India Limited, Calcutta, have been issued a letter of intent for establishment of a new undertaking in a backward district of Maharashtra State for the manufacture of Corned Meat and other by-products. The cost of the project is estimated to Rs. 404 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. The entire production is to be exported for a period of 10 years which may be extended for another five years at the discretion of the Government.

(c) Letter of Intent No. 955(74) dated 26th October, 1974 has been issued to M/s. Brooke Bond India Limited, Calcutta for manufacture of 10,740 metric tonnes of Corned meat as main product and other by-products like Extracts, Soap stock medium, Bone meal, Tallow and Semi-finished and finished leather.

(d) The proposal was examined by the different Departments concerned (D.G.T.D., D.G.S.S.I. and Department of Agriculture) and was found acceptable from MRTP angle also. It was found to be attractive as the entire production is to be exported yielding substantial net foreign exchange earnings. The applicant has also agreed to reduce the foreign equity from 75 per cent to 60 per cent.

**Pay scales of staff and officers of  
Head Quarters Establishment of  
I.T.D.C.**

9336. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the general conditions of service, leave and holidays, scales of pay and allowances, pay fixation formula and fringe benefits of the staff and officers of ITDC Headquarters establishments are governed by and are on the lines of Central Government employees and officers;