

(c) It has been suggested to the State Governments that they may deregister units which were found during the census to be either not traceable or closed/not functioning. The State Governments have also been requested to forward lists of such cases to the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports in order to ensure that the import licences/permits or quotas for scarce raw materials are not issued in their favour. It has also been suggested to the State Governments that they may investigate how non-existent units have been registered and also to see whether action is not called for against officials found responsible for them.

Inequalities in Income, Wealth and Personal Consumption

7278. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed to reduce inequalities in income, wealth and personal consumption so as to bring the disparity ratios within the range of 1 to 10;

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to achieve their objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) and (b) The reduction in inequalities in income, wealth and personal consumption has been one of the important objectives of the successive Five Year Plans but no specific disparity ratios were laid down in this regard. A number of steps have also been taken from time to time to reduce the inequalities. The impact of these measures on the reduction in disparities is not known for lack of statistical data regarding the size distribution of income and wealth. According to NSS data available for 1967-68 in respect of the consumer expenditure, the disparity between the shares of the facitile group 0 to 5 and the facitile group 95-100 was 1:11. Similar data for the later periods are not yet available.

(c) The reduction in disparities in income and consumption standard forms one of the basic objectives of the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan. This is sought to be achieved through an overall integrated strategy outlined in the Draft Fifth Plan—raising the levels of income and consumption of the poorer sections of the community on one side and reducing the disposable income and consumption of the rich on the other. The important measures which are being taken in this direction include:—

- (i) the accelerated growth in the real output with special emphasis on goods of mass consumption, expanded opportunities of productive employment particularly in the rural areas, implementation of National Minimum Needs Programme, development of backward areas and regions and strengthening of public distribution system for selected essential commodities;
- (ii) orientation of fiscal and taxation policies to check the accrual of large incomes and wealth and curb the consumption particularly of luxury and inessential items.
- (iii) operation of MRTP and licensing and other policies to check the increase in concentration of income and wealth; and
- (iv) adoption of effective measures for checking the evasion of taxes and creation of black money.

Cooperative Societies in Tribal Blocks

7279. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Cooperative Societies in the Tribal Blocks;

(b) if so, the salient features of the functioning of these societies in the States, State-wise; and

(c) facilities provided to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State of West Bengal?