

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The World Bank has not imposed any such pre-condition.

(c) Question does not arise.

Credit Facilities for People in Rural Areas

597. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister had recently called a meeting of the Chief Ministers to review the progress made by various agencies to meet the farmers' credit needs;

(b) if so, the decisions taken thereat;

(c) whether any State Government had expressed its dissatisfaction with the credit policy of these agencies; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to meet the credit demands of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) The Finance Minister had called a meeting of certain Chief Ministers at Bangalore on the 16th June, 1976 for the purpose of holding discussions on specific problems having a vital bearing on rural credit and especially consumption credit which was dealt with in the report of the Expert Committee on Consumption Credit, set up by Government of India in the wake of the various debt relief legislations undertaken by the State Governments.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11074/76].

(c) and (d). No, Sir. In the course of the discussions, the Chief Ministers put forward their respective viewpoints and made various suggestions for effective implementation of the re-

commendations of the Expert Committee on Consumption Credit. Most of these suggestions were accepted by the Union Finance Minister and urgent steps have been initiated to implement them.

Import of Edible Oils by S.T.C.

598. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation propose to arrange the imports of edible oils in order to meet the increased demand from the vanaspati industry;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) how much foreign exchange would be needed for it?

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

(a) to (c). In view of the rising trend in prices of edible oils, Government has made it compulsory for the vanaspati industry to use atleast 50 per cent of imported oils for vanaspati manufacture. In order to meet this increased demand, STC has contracted for purchase abroad of sufficient quantity of edible oils out of the foreign exchange released to it for the purpose at the beginning of the year.

Closure of Textile Units

599. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 18 textile units are lying closed in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

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

(a) and (b). As at the end of April, 1976, 18 cotton textile mills were lying closed. Of these 13 were closed due to financial difficulties, 4 due to labour trouble and 1 due to damage to machinery caused by Cyclone.