

(a) whether the Prime Minister has assured that the pace of the public sector spending on infrastructure is likely to be reviewed and an Inter-ministerial group set up to examine problems faced by the capital goods sector owing to easier imports;

(b) if s, the details thereof;

(c) whether Prime Minister after having the meeting with the industrialists, announced a number of measures to stimulate demand and ensure a sharp upturn in the performance of the manufacturing sector during the rest of the financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) In the meeting held under Chairmanship of Prime Minister on 1.10.97 with industrialists on manufacturing sectors, it was decided to constitute a small group to examine issues of rationalisation of duty structure for import of capital goods and to review the pace of public investment in key sectors.

(c) and (d) During the meeting, issues relating to various sectors including cement, automobile, capital goods, paper/newsprint, leather, steel, textiles electronics/software were discussed and decisions taken on relevant issues such as constitution of a small group to look into the rationalisation of duty structure for import of capital goods, particularly in the context of Zero Duty Import; encouraging house construction activity not only to augment the housing stock but also to give the needed push to other core sectors of the economy; preparing a new people-friendly, eco-friendly and industry-friendly forest policy; to review the pace of public investment in key sectors like power, oil, coal telecom, road, etc.

NABARD Loan for Houses

589. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD proposes to introduce any new housing schemes for Weaker Sections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the apex financial institution for, inter-alia, providing refinance to banks for agriculture and allied activities. Housing finance has not been taken up by NABARD so far and as such they have no proposal.

Subsidy on Non-Merit Goods

590. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
KUMARI UMA BHARTI :
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw the subsidy given on non-merit goods;

(b) if so, the details of such non-merit goods on which subsidy is likely to be withdrawn;

(c) the reasons behind taking such a decision;

(d) the impact of withdrawal of subsidy on common man; and

(e) the amount being incurred by the Government annually as subsidy and the items on which this amount is spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) A statement is attached.

Statement

Details of Subsidies

(In crores of rupees)

		Actuals 1988-89	Actuals 1989-90	Actuals 1990-91	Actuals 1991-92	Actuals 1992-93	Actuals 1993-94	Actuals 1994-95	Actuals 1995-96	Revised 1996-97	Budget 1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	A. Major Subsidies	6787	9032	9581	9793	9414	10764	11527	12128	14233	17130
1.	Food	2200	2476	2450	2850	2800	5537	5100	5377	4066	7500
2.	Indigenous (Urea) Fertiliser	3000	3771	2730	3500	4800	3800	4075	4300	4743	5240

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Imported (Urea) Fertiliser	201	771	659	1300	996	782	1166	1935	1350	1950
4.	Fertiliser subsidy to small and marginal farmers	...	...	...	385	...	...	...	...	...	...
5.	Export Promotion and Market Development	1386	2014	2742	1758	818	665	658	16	400	440
6.	Sale of decontrolled fertiliser with concession to farmers	...	...	...	...	...	...	528	500	1674	2000
B.	Debt Relief to Farmers	...	...	1602	1425	1500	500	341	...	...	...
C.	Other Subsidies	945	1442	1075	1035	1081	1418	1064	1177	2461	1121
7.	Railways	207	233	283	312	353	412	420	418	466	537
8.	Mill-made Cloth	27	10	10	15	15	16	...	1	...	...
9.	Handloom Cloth	146	181	185	187	161	174	148	143	96	84
10.	Import/Export of Sugar, Edible Oils etc.	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	50	50
11.	Interest Subsidies	406	881	379	316	113	113	76	34	1257	34
12.	Assistance for fertilizer promotion	...	...	...	...	340	517	...	...	...	...
13.	Other Subsidies	119	137	218	205	99	186	420	418	590	416
Total Subsidies		7732	10474	12158	12253	11995	12682	12932	13305	16694	18251

Budget Allocation

591. SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA :
 SHRI V.M SUDHEERAN :
 SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :
 SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
 SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
 DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
 SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
 SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Centre plan outlay of Rs. 92,000 crores, an expenditure of only Rs. 16,000 crores was spent representing 70% has been incurred in the first quarter;

(b) if so, the main reasons for not spending the amount fully;

(c) whether the Prime Minister expressed serious concern over several Ministries/Departments for not generating enough resources and not spending adequately from the amounts allocated to them in the budget;

(d) whether any report has been prepared consequent to this observation regarding performance of each Ministry/Department; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The expenditure incurred represents 17.5% of the Central Plan Outlay and not 70%. The allocation will be utilised in four quarters. The expenditure in the first quarter is normally less than 25%.

(c) to (e) After reviewing the Plan expenditure by the various Ministries, the Cabinet Committee on Economic