

(e) the details of safety measures adopted to check such malpractices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (e) The Industrial Policy Statement of 1991 permits foreign equity investments in various sectors of the industry which inter alia includes processed food products. Under this Policy, while automatic approval for foreign equity investments upto 51% is granted for industries listed in Annexure-III of the Industrial Policy Statement of 1991, proposals for foreign investments which do not qualify for the automatic approval are also examined by a High Powered Committee known as the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and are approved at an appropriate level of the government. Foreign investments by the International Companies for establishment of fast food, restaurants have been permitted by the Government under the above Policy. These chains of restaurants are to operate within the laws in force. Sales of food articles containing harmful ingredients are punishable under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Food (Health) authorities of the States and Union Territories have been advised to keep vigil on the quality of food articles sold and take legal action in the event of contravention.

Corruption Cases

*178. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of corruption and assets disproportionate to the known income of civil servants have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of Central Government servants involved;

(c) the number of Officers of All India Services involved in corruption and dishonesty;

(d) the number of cases reported and investigated separately by the vigilance organisations in 1995 and 1996 and number of cases sent for trial and departmental action;

(e) whether the Government have made any review of the functioning and powers of vigilance sections attached to the Government Officers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (g) Civil servants of the Government of India belonging to various Services are

controlled by the respective administrative Ministries, who are the competent authorities for according sanction for prosecution as also for initiating disciplinary action. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions is concerned with two services, namely the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) (Grade I and above). In respect of officers of IAS, the State Government concerned is also competent to conduct investigation into an allegation of corruption etc. and a reference to this Ministry in respect of such IAS officers will be made by the State Government when the case reaches the stage of trial and sanction is required under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. As on date 18 IAS Officers and three officers of the CSS (Grade I and above) are being prosecuted under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 on the basis of sanction under the said Act accorded by this Department. Regular Departmental Action against 8 IAS Officers and 4 CSS Officers (Grade I and above) has been initiated.

In the present scheme of vigilance, the responsibility for maintaining purity and integrity in the department/organisation rests with the Secretary of the Administrative Ministry and the vigilance units assist the Secretary in this task. Review of these Units is also done by the Secretary/Head of the organisation as and when considered necessary by him.

Merger of Ministries

*179. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to reduce the number of Ministries and Departments of the Union Government by merger of the Departments;

(b) if so, the details of the list of realignment;

(c) whether some Departments are proposed to be transferred to the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the main objectives behind this proposal; and

(f) the details of the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (f) There are no proposals pending on reorganisation/merger of Ministries. However, the Fifth Central Pay commission has proposed, inter alia, in its report that the Central Government needs to be re-structured by closing down some departments or