

tion for setting up of a fruit processing unit in Dindigul.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Essential Commodities through Fair Price Shops

*435. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

DR. SUDHIR RAY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to supply all essential commodities through Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Fair Price Shops are proposed to be opened in rural areas as in urban areas;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (e). Six key essential commodities, viz. wheat, rice, kerosene, levy sugar, imported edible oils and soft coke are supplied by the Central Government to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, who in turn arrange for their distribution to consumers. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are free to add, on their own, additional items of mass consumption, taking into account local preferences.

The strengthening and streamlining of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is a continual process. The Central Government has been advising State Governments/UT Adminis-

trations, among other things, to expand PDS outlets in uncovered/undercovered areas and to use mobile vans whenever possible in remote and tribal areas, etc.

[*English*]

Foreign Investment in Public Sector Undertakings

*436. SHRI V. N. SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow 51 per cent equity participation in Public Sector Undertakings by multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Public Sector Undertakings; where foreign investment is proposed to be allowed, have been identified;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the names of the multinational companies which are proposed to be allowed to invest in these Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Decline in Production in Public Sector Undertakings

*437. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the continuous losses, decline in production and labour resentment in various Public