

tion on the lines of Delhi Telephones Advisory Committee;

- (b) if so, by what time; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). An Advisory Council on Public Distribution System (PDS) has been already constituted for reviewing the functioning of the PDS, the management of supplies of essential commodities and other related matters. This is a High Powered Body consisting, among others, of Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies of State Governments etc.

Decontrol of Indigenous Newsprint

4773. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of newspapers have demanded the decontrol of indigenous newsprint and withdrawal of sales tax thereupon;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered their demands; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Newsprint is an essential commodity and regulated under Newsprint Control Order, 1962. The gap between domestic supply and demand is met through import. Government's response to issues such as decontrol is always conditioned by its over-

riding concern for the healthy growth of the Press in the country.

Sales tax is a State subject under the constitution. The Central Government do not have powers to issue directive to the State Governments for withdrawal of sales tax on any commodity.

[English]

Food Processing Units in Chittoor District

4774. SHRI MAHASAMUDRAM GYANENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to set up food processing units in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO):

(a) to (c). Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not directly set up food processing industries in any state. However various Plant Schemes have been formulated by this Ministry to provide financial assistance to the state Governments, State Government Undertakings, their cooperative Societies, and Public Sector Undertakings to set up food processing industries in different states. Under these Schemes a proposal was received from the District Industries Centre, Department of Industries, Chittoor, for seeking assistance for setting up a Quality control Lab at Chittoor, in March, 1991. They have been requested to submit their proposal through the Andhra Pradesh State Government in accordance with guidelines of this Ministry. So far nothing has been heard from

the State Government. Another proposal was received from the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. for an integrated fruit and vegetable processing project which, inter alia, envisaged setting up of one fruit and vegetable processing unit at Madanappally in Chittoor District. Certain clarifications and documents have been asked for by this Ministry from this Corporation, reply is still awaited.

Announcement of Result of Grade 'C' Stenographers

4775. SHRIAJIT ANANTRAOPAWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether written test for Grade 'C' Stenographers Examination, 1989 was held by Staff Selection Commission on July, 22, 1990 and subsequently stenography speed test conducted in April, 1991;

(b) whether the result of the said examination has not been declared so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor for this inordinate delay;

(d) whether due to delay in announcement of the result the career of thousands of candidates have been affected; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to announce the result at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes Sir. The Written Test was conducted on 22nd July, 1990 and the Stenography Test during April and May, 1991.

(b) The final result has been declared on 26th August, 1991.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Procedure for Selection for Candidates

4776. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3078 on August, 14, 1991 and state:

(a) the salient features of the procedure adopted by the Union Public Service Commission in selecting candidates on the basis of their performance in the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examinations; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Commission to ensure parity between the standards of the question papers of the different optional subjects and also to ensure that candidates of any particular subject (s), in particular, are not disadvantaged relative to others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Information is given in the attached statement.

(b) Adequate steps are taken by the Union Public Service Commission to ensure parity between the standards of question papers of different optional subject and also to ensure that candidates choosing any particular subject are neither put to disadvantage nor do they derive any undue advantage relative to others.

STATEMENT

The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination consists of the following two papers—

Paper I General Studies carrying a maximum of 150 marks.

Paper II AN optional subject to be selected by the candidates out of the 22