

diture incurred on the advertisements;

(b) whether according to the survey conducted by the 'Operation Research Group' 50 percent expenditure is incurred on advertisements on various commodities; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the prices of these commodities do not increase only due to advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Since the essential commodities already have been adequate demand, they do not require huge expenditure on their advertisement. Essential commodities supplied through the Public Distribution System involve no expenditure on advertisement. Various studies are conducted from time to time on several aspects of advertisement by Research Organisation including Operation Research Group. The Government have taken suitable measures to contain the prices of essential commodities and is committed to avoid the wasteful expenditure.

Supply of Essential Commodities to Government Servants through Canteen.

6593. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to supply essential commodities to its employees through canteens under the canteen store department to protect its employees from rising prices and profiteering;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the categories of employees to be benefitted from this scheme?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a). No, Sir. The Central Government makes allocation of key essential commodities viz. rice, wheat, levy sugar, kerosene imported edible oil and soft coke to State Governments/UT Administrations for supply under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to all consumers including civilian employees of Government etc.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Expert Committee on working of CCI

6594. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. H.C. Visvesvaraya was set up to review the working of the Cement Corporation of India:

(b) if so, the recommendation made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) some of the recommendations of the Committee are:-

(1) Conversion of loans into equity to

bringing the debt equity ratio to 1 : 1.

- (2) The Corpn. should reduce the cost of production and sales.
- (3) Averting financial crisis in CCI by giving CCI some extra budgetary support.
- (4) To ensure functional autonomy.
- (5) Operating Units to be headed by best available senior GMs.
- (6) Ensuring effective monitoring and control.
- (7) Reducing inventory.
- (8) Improving maintenance practices and DG Set utilisation.

(c) Most of the recommendations, suggested by the Committee, have been implemented. Some of the recommendations are to be implemented on continuous basis and this is being done

Reduction in the Supply of Foodgrains to PDS

6595. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA
WASNIK:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR
SHASTRI:

Will the PRIMEMINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has in study suggested a reduction in the supply of grains to PDS by four million tonnes by eliminating the upper strata of urban household from its purview;

(b) whether the standing Advisory Committee on Agriculture had also suggested

that the salaried class should be taken out from the benefits of PDS and restricting its scope to the rural areas and urban slums;

(c) if so, whether the Government have accepted these recommendations;

(d) whether the Government plan to formulate a new food distribution policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) National Council of Applied Economic Research has suggested exclusion of certain categories of beneficiaries from foodgrain entitlements under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) to (e) . There is no proposal to exclude any section of the population from PDS.

A meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS was held recently. It was agreed to reorient the focus of PDS to concentrate on areas inhabited by larger number of poor people, like areas under Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme and Tribal Majority States, The state would be to ensure an effective reach of essential commodities to consumers in these areas, through the increase of Fair Price Shop outlets, coverage of the population by ration card and strengthening or other infrastructure.

New Technology for Electrolytic Production of Potassium Iodate

6596. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the PRIMEMINISTER be pleased to state :