

FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Government have decided to continue Five Day Week in the Civil Administrative Offices. However, the Departments whose functions are predominantly marked by public dealings or of commercial nature and at present working on Five Day week, have been asked to review the arrangement and switch over to Six Day Week, wherever feasible.

Procurement Price for Wheat and Paddy

2154. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the procurement price of wheat on the advice of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have not increased the procurement price of paddy simultaneously;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the procurement price of paddy also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government fixed the minimum support price (MSP) at Rs. 4.55 per quintal of wheat for the 1997-98 crop to be marketed in 1998-99 on the basis of the report of the CACP, views of the State Governments, concerned Central Ministries and other relevant factors. Further, the Government decided to pay a bonus of Rs. 35 per quintal on the sale of wheat to the public agencies for the period from 1st April to 10th June, 1998.

(c) to (f) The Government has already fixed the MSP of paddy for the 1997-98 season. The MSP fixed is Rs. 415 per quintal for paddy common and Rs. 445 per quintal for paddy Grade 'A' variety. There is no proposal to increase the MSP of paddy already announced for the 1997-98 season since the MSP for the next season, i.e. 1998-99 season is already under consideration of the Government.

Kendriya Bhandar

2155. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether suppliers of different items to the Kendriya Bhandar can be blacklisted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to frame the rules for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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 FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar follows the rules laid down by Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) for banning and suspension of business dealings with the Contractors mutatis mutandis. A copy of the relevant extracts from the DGS&D Manual of Office Procedure for Supply etc. in this regard are enclosed (Statement).

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Extracts from DGS&D Manual of Office Procedure for Supply etc.

24.14 BANNING AND SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH THE CONTRACTOR

24.14.1 Business dealings with a firm, whether it is registered or not registered, may be ordered to be suspended or banned, in public interest by the competent authority. Presently, the authority in this regard is vested with the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Department of Supply.

24.14.2 THE SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH FIRMS

Suspension of business dealings may be ordered where, pending full enquiry into the allegation, it is not considered desirable that business with the firm should continue. Such an order may be passed:—

- (i) If the firm is suspected to be of doubtful loyalty to India;
- (ii) If the Central Bureau of Investigation or any other investigating agency recommends such a course in respect of a case under investigation; and
- (iii) If a prime-facie case is made out that the firm is guilty of an offence involving moral turpitude in relation to business dealings which, if established, would result in business dealings with it being banned.

24.14.3 BANNING OF BUSINESS DEALINGS

The grounds on which banning may be ordered are:—

- (i) If security consideration including question of loyalty to the State so warrant.

(ii) If the proprietor of the firm, its employee, partner or representative is convicted by a court of law following prosecution for offences involving moral turpitude in relation to the business dealings.

(iii) If there is strong justification for believing that the proprietor or employee or representative of the firm has been guilty of malpractices such as bribery, corruption, fraud, substitution of tenders, interpolation, misrepresentation, evasion or habitual default in payment of any tax levied by law; etc.

(iv) If the firm contumaciously refuses to return government dues without showing adequate cause and government are satisfied that this is not due to reasonable dispute which would attract proceeding in arbitration or court of law, and

(v) If the firm employs a government servant, dismissed, removed on account of corruption or employs a non-official convicted or an offence involving corruption or abatement of such an offence, in a position where he could corrupt government servants.

Nuclear Waste

2156. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have long term plans for disposal of nuclear low level radio active waste generated in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether arrangements have been made with any foreign country for disposal of nuclear waste; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Processes, technologies and equipment have been indigenously developed for treatment, conditioning, handling, packaging and disposal of low level radio-active wastes generated in India. Plants have been set up and are operated successfully for this purpose as per the guidelines and approvals given by the regulatory authority, namely the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mother Dairy

2157. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fruits and vegetables outlets/extension counters opened by Mother Dairy in Delhi since January 1, 1997;

(b) the locations of such outlets/extension counters where weighing machines without printer have been installed; and

(c) the reasons for providing the weighing machines without printer at such extension counters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) 30 Fruit and vegetable outlets were opened by the Fruit and Vegetable Project in Delhi during the period January 1, 1997 to May 31, 1998.

(b) All fruit and vegetable outlets which were opened during the above period were provided weighing machines with printers.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer to (b) above.

[Translation]

Rajghat Inter-State Project

2158. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the construction work of the Rajghat inter-State Hydrel Power and Irrigation Project on the river of Betwa has not been completed since long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the proposed project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The construction of Rajghat inter-State Multipurpose Dam Project was started in October 1979 with the target date of completion as June, 1986. However, due to constraint of funds, the work could not be completed by June, 1986. The project was then rescheduled several times and the latest likely date of completion of the project is June, 1999.

[English]

Achievement of Targeted Plan Investment

2159. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have not achieved the targeted plan investment for 1997-98;

(b) the reasons for not utilising the plan investment by them;

(c) the action being taken against such States; and

(d) the extent to which their plan outlay has been reduced for 1998-99?