

Buddhism from being deemed to be members of the Scheduled Castes has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12.3.1990. For Scheduled Tribes, there is no bar whatsoever based on religion.

(b) and (c). After the above amendment is made in para 3 of all the Presidential Orders issued so far specifying Scheduled Castes, all persons who profess the religions Hindu, Sikh or the Buddhism shall be deemed to be members of Scheduled Castes. Persons professing religions different from Hindu, Sikh, Buddhism, therefore, will not be entitled to get the benefits of Scheduled Castes.

Preservation and marketing of Coconut Water

1368. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate comprehensive scheme for preservation and marketing of coconut water; and

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

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not have any proposal in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

Retail and wholesale prices of consumer items

1369. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the comparative retail and whole-sale prices of various consumer items, especially, varieties of wheat, rice, cereals, pulses, sugar, soaps, teas, edible oils, spices as in January, 1988, 1989 and 1990?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): A statement showing the retail and whole-sale prices of various commodities as in January, 1988, 1989 and 1990 is given below.