

goods on which there will be a curb. There is an instruction of the Finance Ministry regarding curbing of luxury goods. But so far as the Eighth Five Year Plan is concerned, I have submitted that it is under consideration. This is the position.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: May I know the present rate of saving and the rate of saving that you envisage for the next Plan?

SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI: The present rate of saving is 21.6 percent and we would like to raise it to 24.0 percent.

Closure of Public Sector Units

*895. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA†:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its approach paper to the Eighth Plan has recommended for the closure of about 40 chronic loss incurring central public sector undertakings during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of the said units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) The Approach Paper for Eighth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

(b) Question does not arise.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. My question was whether the Planning Commission in its approach paper to the Eighth Plan has recommended for the closure of about 40 chronic loss incurring central public sector undertakings, and the answer is that the approach paper has yet to be finalised. I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether the Planning Commission has made

such a recommendation or not. May I know what is the intention of the Government about the closure of these undertakings?

SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI: As I have submitted, there is no recommendation by the Planning Commission for closing down these sick units. The hon. Member wanted to know whether we have recommended for the closure of these undertakings and I have stated that the approach paper is yet to be finalised. The Planning Commission has appointed Steering Groups, Working Groups and Sub-Groups. These groups have yet to finalise their report. After the report is received, it will be considered by the full Planning Commission. And then it would be approved by the National Development Council. As I said, at present, there is no such proposal from the Planning Commission for closing of any sick units.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Planning Commission is aware that certain public sector units are incurring heavy losses? If so, what is the thinking of the Planning Ministry to take remedial measures, to modernise those units or otherwise?

SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI: As I have submitted, we know that there are some public sector undertakings which have been running in losses, but so far as the policy matter regarding their closure is concerned, these are under consideration of the Planning Commission and have not yet been finalised. But at the same time, Government have taken some steps to improve the sick units like strengthening their management, organizational restructuring, financial restructuring, modernization of plant and equipment, process technology, expansion and diversification, voluntary retirement of surplus labour etc. These are some of the steps taken by the Government to improve the sick units.

Request for Change of Cadre

*898. SHRI D P. JADEJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government accede to the requests from women officers for a change of cadre in All India Services; and

(b) 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 HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Change of cadre is allowed when two members of All India Services borne on different cadres got married.

SHRID.P. JADEJA: Sir, I believe that it has been our policy to see that more women take up jobs in the Central Government Services. Certain women who have joined I.A.S. or the other Central Services have requested through the State Government for a change of cadre, but the State Governments have refused to forward those requests. May I know whether it is true, and if so, whether the Central Government will inform all the State Governments to forward the requests made by such employees?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I don't know of any case where the State Government has not forwarded the application of a women IAS Officer for cadre transfer on the ground of her marriage to another All India service officer. But if the application is for cadre transfer outside the policy then the State Government is perfectly right in not forwarding the application because if we receive it we would also reject it. On the ground of marriage the State Government forward the application and we consider the application.

SHRI D.P. JADEJA: Sir, it is very clear that the Government is keen that an IAS Officer must marry another IAS Officer only. Does this mean that we are trying to create another caste system in the country? Why are we restricting our women officers, not to marry people who are not IAS officers? Will the Government consider this proposal?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, it is not

so clear to me as it is to Mr. Jadeja. We certainly have no intention of telling a girl whom she should marry and whom she should not marry. The point is that we have a policy of allocation of cadres. This is an All India Service and I have a minute with me written by Indiraji. We cannot provincialise the service; we cannot break this service into State services. A lady or a gentleman when she or he is allotted to a cadre must be willing to serve anywhere in India. Every State in India is equal and every State in India requires the services of these officers.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Including the Home Affairs.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Everywhere. When a man or a woman is appointed to a cadre he or she must serve in that cadre. However, when a lady and gentleman belonging to the All India services marry each other we ensure that they are posted to the same cadre so that they can for a substantial period of time work in the same place. We certainly do not encourage IAS Officers marrying only IAS Officers but I must admit that there is a lot of courtship in Mussoorie.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: This question has two sides; one is the women's interest and the other is all India services. I am taking up the first side. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry at all check up as to how various circulars, which are issued from time to time from the Department to different branches, are being implemented. My experience says that most of these circulars are totally ignored. So, it is not a question of only IAS staff but it is concerned with various circulars also. I would like to know whether the Minister will make it a point to monitor this thing and let us know how far these circulars are being honoured, particularly about the one which involves giving the same cadre to husband and wife.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Sir, I could not agree more with the Hon. Member. We have the same experience as she has with Bengal.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have the experience of only Bengal but since Prime Minister is here and he is representing the whole of India, I hope he will do the same.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, one of the major steps that we took, of which our Government is legitimately proud, is the basic circular which was issued in 1986 saying that husband and wife should as far as possible be posted together. I know hundreds of cases where the husbands and wives have been brought together. I have got files on that and I am willing to show them to Mrs. Mukherjee. If she has got any particular case where the Government or the department has not responded she should bring it to my notice. Many Hon. Members have brought cases to my notice and I had solved those cases. Hundreds of husbands and wives have been brought together.

MR. SPEAKER: And Members are happy also.

Civic Action Programme In Punjab

*900. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security forces in Punjab have initiated 'civic action programme' aimed at providing a 'soothing touch to the hurt psyche of the rural masses'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The security forces in Punjab provided medical assistance to rural population in Amritsar, Sangrur & Faridkot districts which otherwise was not available to them due to strike since 2nd February, 1989 by Class-II PCMS Doctors in the State. They also made available sports equipment to a number of schools in the rural areas of

Amritsar district.

The gesture of security forces had a favourable impact on the people of the State.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Sir, I welcome this initiative taken by the security forces in Punjab, namely, initiating civic action programme for providing a soothing touch to the hurt psyche of the rural masses.

I would therefore like to know further details—if the Minister can give—as to how many villages were covered by this programme of providing medical assistance to the rural population, how many schools were provided with these sports equipment and what amount has been spent up to now for this programme.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have some difficulty in sharing too much information because, this service was provided as a follow-up to combing operations done in some areas. This operation was taken up in the month of March-April as a controlled operation. We covered about 439 villages in certain areas of Punjab. After the combing operations, the para-military forces' doctors provided medical assistance to the people in the villages and also provided sports equipment to some of the schools which did not have sports equipment.

I would request the hon. Member to bear with me and not to ask me details about the combing operations because if I give details about the villages then there will be details about the combing operations also.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: May I know from you what is the impact? You have said that "The gesture of security forces had a favourable impact on the people of the State."

I would like to know some details about its impact and whether Government proposes to continue this scheme.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the favourable impact is two-fold. Firstly, there is a greater co-operation from the villagers for