

to meet the remaining deficit of Rs. 34.78 crores, equivalent to the opening deficit of the year and if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). The Finance Minister of Orissa, in his budget speech on 3rd March, 1978 stated that he expected to cover the deficit of Rs. 12 crores out of the total deficit of Rs. 46.78 crores shown in the budget for 1978-79. He has sought special Central assistance to cover the remaining deficit of Rs. 34.78 crores equivalent to the opening deficit of the year.

The ways and means of meeting the gaps in resources for the States' Annual Plan 1978-79, including the opening deficits, will be considered during the course of the year, in consultation with the States and the Planning Commission.

SHRI SARAT KAR: Orissa is one of the poor States economically. 75 per cent of its population live below poverty line and there is regional imbalance. May I request the Central Government to react favourably to the demands of the Orissa Government so that the State can improve.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The Central Government is always considerate to the regions which are in financial difficulties.

की राज बिलास पासवान : जो राज्य प्राथिक दृष्टि में पिछड़े हुए हैं, कमजोर हैं क्या उन राज्यों को भारत के वित्त मंत्री विशेष सहायता देने की व्यवस्था करेंगे, याद नहीं तो क्यों नहीं ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The hon. Member must be aware that there is a finance commission which is appointed every five years to try and assess the difficulties of all States particularly the backward ones and see what additional assistance they should be given from the Central Government.

Replacement of Sales Tax by Excise Duty

*552. **SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1521 on the 3rd March, 1978 regarding decision on abolition of sales tax and state:

(a) the names of the States with which the concerned discussions were held,

(b) whether the State Governments ruled by Janata Party are also reluctant to accept the proposal to replace sales tax by excise duty; and

(c) the reaction to the said proposal of the State Governments ruled by Janata Party, separately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c). The question of replacement of sales tax by excise duty has been discussed with the Chief Ministers/Finance Ministers of almost all the States including the States ruled by the Janata Party. The Chief Ministers/Finance Ministers of States have generally shown lack of enthusiasm for abolition of sales tax. This is a matter which cannot be settled immediately and calls for continuing efforts in this direction.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Sir, I seek your protection. I think this is one of the modern methods of giving evasive replies. Please see Question (b) and (c). I asked: "whether the State Governments ruled by Janata Party are also reluctant to accept the proposal to replace sales tax by excise duty". There is no reply to that: And Then Question (c) "the reaction to the said proposal of the State Governments ruled by Janata Party, separately." He has not replied this. So, I cannot put my supplementaries.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I have given this reply. I may repeat for his benefit. I said: "...has been discussed

with the Chief Ministers/Finance Ministers of almost all the States including the States ruled by the Janata Party...."

"The Chief Ministers/Finance Ministers of States have generally shown lack of enthusiasm for abolition of sales tax."

It answers everything.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHIND: I wanted to know specially about the States run by the Janata Party.

MR. SPEAKER: "Generally" includes "specially" also.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHIND: My question is specific. My submission is, whether he is prepared to answer my question. It is a promise of the Janata Party given to the whole country that they will replace sales tax by excise duty. I want to know whether they will fulfil this promise so far as the States ruled by the Janata Party are concerned.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I am very glad to see that the hon. Member opposite is so anxious about a promise given by the Janata Party. I have already said that we do intend to do whatever we can to fulfil this promise in spite of the fact that there is a reluctance on the part of the Chief Minister....

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be done only in respect of some States.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I have said that this is a matter which cannot be settled immediately and calls for continuing efforts.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Aluminium for utensil trade

*531. **SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a memorandum from the Northern Indian

Aluminium Manufacturers' Association regarding imposition of a ban on export of semi of aluminium and allocation of aluminium to the utensil trade direct;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) steps taken or proposed to ban the export of this item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to ban export of aluminium semi-manufactures as the volume of exports is small in relation to domestic consumption of aluminium. Considering that the shortage is a short-term feature and that arrangements are being made for import of required quantities of aluminium, there is at present no proposal to impose control on distribution of non-levy aluminium required for the utensil industry.

Import of valuable commodities

*533. **DR. BHAGWAN DASS RATHOR:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has restricted the import of certain valuable commodities which were banned till recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). Imports of certain items which had been banned earlier were later allowed to be imported on restricted basis. A statement giving de-