

(c) whether any alternative arrangements have been made by Government for their employment and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Having regard to the prevailing prices of Khandasari sugar, and the need to ensure adequate supply of cane to the various sectors of the sugar industry in order to maximise sugar production, the excise duty on Khandasari sugar has been revised.

(b) Government consider that the increase in the duty will not lead to any unemployment.

(c) In view of the reply to (b) above, the question does not arise.

Withdrawal of Countervailing Duties Imposed by U.S. on India's Textile Exports

*174. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the countervailing duties imposed by USA on India's textile exports have been withdrawn by now;

(b) whether all the textile cargo held up at various American Ports had been cleared up by now; and

(c) whether this withdrawal applies to other exports from India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Countervailing duties imposed provisionally on certain textile products have been withdrawn.

(b) Government have no information that any shipments of textiles were detained on this account.

(c) No, Sir.

Invitation to Oil Nations for Investment in India

*175. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have invited oil Nations to invest money on a priority basis in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the countries who have shown their willingness to invest in this country; and

(c) the foreign exchange which is likely to be invested during the next five years under this invitation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). Taking into account the interest shown by some Oil Exporting Developing Countries for investment in India Government have decided to provide the following investment facilities:

- (i) Investment from oil exporting developing countries may be permitted in new companies even if it is in the nature of portfolio investment.
- (ii) Such investments should not exceed 40 per cent in the equity.
- (iii) The new companies should be export-oriented or should undertake manufacturing activities covered under Appendix I of the Industrial Policy of 1973.
- (iv) Investment on the aforesaid pattern may be allowed in hotels.
- (v) Investment may also be allowed in new hospital projects and such hospitals should have adequate provision for out door and emergency medical

service to the general public and also for a minimum percentage of occupancy by Indian Public.

(vi) Loans should also be allowed to be raised abroad for such Joint ventures provided the terms are reasonable.

(c) while it is difficult to indicate the likely size of investment during the next five years, it is hoped that the response would be adequate and encouraging.

Statement made by the Minister about Export of essential commodities

*176. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in his address to the National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi on October 28th, 1980 he stated that in the coming years essential commodities will have to be exported for earning foreign exchange:

(b) if so, what are the essential commodities that are proposed to be exported; and

(c) what are the essential commodities that are being exported now?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In an address to the annual meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce, it was observed that we will have to make sacrifices in the domestic front to make available supplies of essential commodities for export to earn foreign exchange in the coming years. The reference was made in the light of the seriousness of the anticipated foreign exchange situation.

(b) and (c). A number of essential commodities of mass consumption nature are banned for export. In respect of other essential commodities, as far as possible, such exports are regulated through quota ceilings, fixa-

tion of minimum export prices and through canalising agencies. Some of the principal essential commodities which are allowed for export are meat, rice, vegetables, gur, chillies, tea, cloth, matches and fish. The export policy for essential commodities is reviewed from time to time in the light of emerging supply-demand situation. As such, it is difficult to specify the names of essential commodities that we may export in the future.

केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क तथा आयकर कानूनों में संशोधन

*177. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उन्होंने हाल ही में यह विचार व्यक्त किया है कि केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क तथा आयकर कानूनों में मूलभूत संशोधन करने और उनके लिये प्रगतिशील दृष्टिकोण अपनाने की आवश्यकता है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उनके प्रस्ताव की मुख्य बातें क्या हैं और इस बारे में की गई प्रगति का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सवाई सिंह सिंसोदिया) : (क) मैंने, विभिन्न अवसरों पर कर-कानूनों को सरल बनाने की आवश्यकता का उल्लेख किया है, ताकि उनकी प्रशासनिक दृष्टिकोण से अधिक प्रभावी, कर-निर्धारितियों की समझ में आने योग्य तथा सरलतापूर्वक पालन किये जाने योग्य बनाया जा सके।

(ख) जहाँ तक केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क संरचना को सरल बनाने का संबंध है, इसके लिए सतत प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं। चूंकि यह कराधान का मामला है, इसलिए सरकार के निर्णयों की जानकारी वार्षिक बजट में दी जायगी। जहाँ तक केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क कानून का संबंध है,