

Units of Accounts to 13 European Units of Account (EUA) w.e.f. 1st January, 1980. Further efforts are continuing for improvements.

Coffee is already included in the GSP Scheme of EEC. However, in respect of unroasted undecaffeinated coffee in which India has an export interest, the benefit of the GSP has been limited to the least developed countries. India had requested the EEC for reduction of tariff for Coffee, both on Most Favoured Nation (MFN) basis and under the GSP. The MFN tariff on unroasted undecaffeinated coffee was reduced from 7 to 5 per cent w.e.f. 1st January, 1977.

Bulk tea is duty free on MFN basis. Tea in retail packs is already included in the GSP scheme with a duty free treatment.

Oil cakes which are the main animal feeds exported by India are duty free on MFN basis. Some other types of animal feed in which India has small exports are included in the EEC's GSP scheme.

Involvement of Indian Garment Exporters in forged Certificates Racket

*75. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR
SHASTRI:

SHRI CHHANGUR RAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian garment exporters are alleged to be involved in forged certificates racket;

(b) if so, whether the Indian exporters involved in the racket have been identified, if so, details thereof stating their *modus-operandi*;

(c) the loss in foreign exchange earnings on this account; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) on the basis of a preliminary probe, it has come to light that some export certificates produced at the point of import in a certain quota country are of doubtful authenticity.

(b) The matter is under investigation.

(c) It does not seem as if loss of foreign exchange is involved.

(d) Importing countries have been requested to exercise due vigilance in the matter of scrutiny of export certificates. Further, a system of monthly reconciliation of export certificates with that of import statistics maintained by the quota countries is being introduced. This is expected to considerably minimise the production of export documents of doubtful authenticity.

Bonus to Central Government Employees

*76. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Central Government employees who will not get bonus under the scheme of productivity-linked bonus; and

(b) what steps government propose to take to equalise them with those employees who will get bonus under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) so far productivity-linked bonus has been extended to about 22 lakhs regular employees out of a total of about 32 lakhs Central Government employees.

(b) The productivity-linked bonus has been given only to encourage productivity in production oriented organisations or those which are predominantly commercial in character.

There is no proposal at present to grant productivity-linked bonus to the generality of Central Government employees.

Public Distribution System

*77. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps, if any, have been or are being taken to set up an effective public distribution system in the country;

(b) outcome of the steps taken so far in physical and financial terms;

(c) names of items which are currently being supplied through the public distribution system;

(d) quantity supplied per head per week; and

(e) whether Government are satisfied with the progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) and (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) Information is being collected from the various State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is received.

Statement

(a) to (c) and (e). The public distribution system in the country has been reviewed from time to time in consultation with the State Governments and the concerned Ministries of the Central Government. The State Governments were requested to take steps for strengthening the public distribution system by enlarging the coverage by increasing the retail outlets so that people in remote and in-

accessible areas and areas inhabited by weaker sections of the society are efficiently served. Between January, 1980 and the end of October, 1980 31,000 additional retail outlets of the public distribution system have been opened in the country. State Governments have been advised to nominate agencies such as Civil Supplies Corporations or Cooperative Consumers Marketing Federations for lifting of essential commodities allotted by the Centre and supplying them to the retail outlets. Central Government has also advised to State Governments to constitute committees of the representatives of the people at various levels to keep watch over the functioning of the public distribution system. Periodical review of the availability and distribution of essential commodities is being undertaken by the Union Government and corrective measures taken, wherever necessary.

At present cereals such as wheat and rice, levy sugar, imported edible oils, kerosene, controlled cloth, exercise books, match boxes, tea and coffee have been recommended for sale through the public distribution system.

Vijaynagar Steelplant

*78. SHRI R. Y. GHORPADE:

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Vijaynagar Steel Plant is located right at the iron ore mine;

(b) whether the limestone, dolomite and manganese ore requirements can be supplied from nearby sources in the Karnataka State itself;

(c) if so, do these advantages place the project in a more favourable