

(d) Government's decision in this regard has been announced at the time of moving for consideration of the Finance Bill, 1981. A scheme of differential pricing has been worked out, under which imported newsprint would be available to small newspapers at lower prices without any duty component and to medium newspapers also at lower prices, but with a duty component equal to 5 per cent ad valorem.

(e) On current estimates of imports of newsprint, the withdrawal of the levy may cost the exchequer about Rs. 25 crores in a year. The alternative suggested by the Association amounts to withdrawal of the levy as the sacrifice involved is Rs. 18.50 crores in a year.

Value of rupees and corresponding adjustment in Taxes

*945. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of the rupee (i) in 1967, (ii) in 1971 and (iii) in the Current year (as at present) as adjusted to the 1947 base;

(b) have corresponding adjustments been made as regards various levels for Income-tax, Wealth-tax, Property valuation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA):

(a) The value of rupee as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers' 1960-100 adjusted to the 1947 base works out to 41.63 paise in 1967, 37.83 paise in 1971 and 17.12 paise in February, 1981 (the latest available).

(b) and (c). It is not the policy of Government to adjust taxation to the purchasing power of the Rupee.

Conference organised in Vienna under the auspices of UNCTAD for Economic Aid Programme

*946. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH:
SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference was recently organised in Vienna under the auspices of the UNCTAD for economic aid programme for poor nations of Asia by the prospective donor nations;

(b) the names of the developing nations which attended the Conference; and

(c) the approach of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement „

Individual review meeting for the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific (namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic Yemen, Laos Peoples' Democratic Republic, Maldives, Nepal, Samoa and Yeman)—was held in Vienna from 30 March to 10 April 1981. This meeting was convened in pursuance of the recommendations and conclusions reached at the preparatory meetings held under the auspices of the UNCTAD that in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Least developed Countries scheduled for September 1981 in Paris the least developed countries be invited to hold individual country consultations with the aid partners. Similar review meetings for the least developed countries in other areas/region are scheduled.

2. It was envisaged that at the review meetings each least developed country would put forward specific

plans and programmes requiring assistance. Accordingly, at the Vienna meeting, each least developed country presented its development plans and programmes.

3. It was agreed in the preparatory meetings held in UNCTAD that each least developed country should decide on the countries and multilateral agencies which it wished to invite to its own review meetings and that it should be encouraged to invite all potential donors. The developing countries which attended the Vienna meeting included Argentina, India, Cuba, Egypt, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand, Yugoslavia, Algeria, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahirya, Nigeria and Venezuela. India was invited to the Vienna meeting by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Laos Peoples' Democratic Republic, Maldives, Nepal and Samoa. There were developed countries and multilateral agencies which also participated in the meeting.

4. India's approach at the meeting was to support fully the aspirations of the least developed countries and their endeavours to secure aid from developed countries to implement their plans and programmes. India's participation in the meeting was not as a donor of aid because India herself is a low income developing country. India, however indicated willingness to extend technical assistance as she has already been doing, on a bilateral basis, specially to the neighbouring least developed countries.

Change_s in Policy of R.B.I. regarding Export Refinance

*947. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that whereas the Reserve Bank of India's policy on credit restraint will continue, there will be some changes in the policy regarding the export refinance; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of these changes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Export refinance is at present provided by the Reserve Bank of India to the scheduled commercial banks upto 50 per cent of the increase in export credit over the monthly average for the calendar year 1978. With effect from the last Friday of April, 1981, the banks would be entitled to refinance to the same extent of 50 per cent of the increase in export credit over the monthly average for the calendar year 1979.

Proposal to improve Tea Technology in North Bengal

*660. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve tea technology in North Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The work on development of tea technology in North-East India including North Bengal is already being conducted by the Tea Research Association at Tocklai Experimental Station, Jorhat and the Tea Board's Darjeeling Tea Research Centre at Kurseong. The Tea Research Association has its sub-station at Nagra-kata, Dooars, which renders advisory service to its member gardens. The development of tea technology for the tea industry in Darjeeling District has been included in the programme of work of Darjeeling Research Centre.