

Sick Public Sector enterprises

***215. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:** will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 48 Public Sector Enterprises, 26 have been declared sick and referred to BIFR; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to revamp the Public Sector Enterprises by using the disinvestment proceeds?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes sir.

(b) Funds for revamping and restructuring of Public Sector Enterprises are allocated out of Consolidated Fund of India to which the Disinvestment proceeds are credited.

Patent of Indian Curry

***216. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:** will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an application for patenting the Indian curry by adding traditional Indian spices has been submitted to the patent office in Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would like to contest such patent applications whereby applicants want to draw monopoly rights of the traditional cooking process; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per information available, no application entitled "Indian Curry by adding traditional Indian spices" is reported to have been filed in the patent Office in Japan. However, a Japanese company, namely, House Food Corporation has reportedly filed an application for grant of a patent entitled "Cooking of Curry" in the Japanese Patent Office. The application was filed on 28th April, 1994 and the same was published on 7th November, 1995.

(c) and (d) Patents are granted by respective Governments under their Patents laws. Whenever, information is received about the