

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken in the matter; and

(c) what steps are proposed to indemnify the unwary investors?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have received complaints regarding malpractices committed by a Stock Broker's firm of Calcutta Stock Exchange.

(b) The complaints mainly relate to non-payment of sale proceeds of shares sold by individual investors. The Calcutta Stock Exchange have expelled the firm from the membership of the Exchange on 9th August, 1989.

(c) The investors have recourse to legal proceedings and can also approach the Stock Exchange authorities for such help as they can provide from Investors' Protection Fund maintained by them.

Increase in Prices of Coffee

1214. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Steep increase in coffee prices on the cards" as reported in the Indian Express of 25th February, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such increase; and

(c) whether Government propose to revise the minimum release price of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c) Based on the cost study report of the Cost Accounts Branch of the Finance Ministry the Minimum Release Price (MRP) of Coffee, has been revised w.e.f. 8th March, 1990 as under:—

Grade	Price before revision	Price after revision	Percentage increase
Arabica	Rs. 19.81 per kg.	Rs. 20.37 per kg.	2.82
Robusta	Rs. 15.90 per kg.	Rs. 16.64 per kg.	4.65
Composite	Rs. 10.18 per point	Rs. 10.57 per point	3.83

It would be seen that the increase can be termed only as marginal and not steep.

Setting up of Appointments board for nationalised banks

1215. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up appointments Board for top level appointments in nationalised banks and other financial institutions;

(b) if so, by when the proposed Board is likely to be set up;

(c) what are the details of top level posts lying vacant in nationalised banks and other financial institutions as on 1st December, 1989; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to fill up such posts?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Government have set up in January, 1990 an Appointments Board under the Chairmanship of Governor, Reserve Bank of India to make recommendations to the Government on appointment of wholetime Direc-