

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Exemption from basic excise duty has been granted on excess sugar produced in a factory during the period 1st October to 30th November, 1986 as compared to the corresponding periods of the previous two sugar years.

(b) The excess production can be computed only after the 30th November, 1986. The extent to which the sugar production is increased would depend on several variable factors including availability of sugar cane and percentage of recovery. It is not possible to give a reliable estimate regarding the additional production of sugar during the early crushing season attributable solely to incentive provided by way of the excise duty concession.

Representation from Central Government employees against Pay Commission's recommendations

*212. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that certain categories of Central Government employees have represented to Government for reconsideration of their pay scales as recommended by the Fourth Pay Commission and accepted by Government; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such representations are examined by the administrative Ministry/Department or the cadre controlling authority on merits taking into account all relevant factors and in consultation with, if necessary, the Ministry of Finance.

Regional Wage Policy

*213. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to evolve a regional wage policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Central Government had circulated draft guidelines on regional minimum wages to all the State Governments/Union Territories and the Planning Commission on 6th May, 1986 for comments. As per these guidelines the entire country is proposed to be divided into six regions. Regional Minimum Wage Advisory Boards are proposed to be set up in each region to fix/revise regional minimum wages employment wise for selected employments within a region. The Boards may select such employments which are spread over more than two states in a region or in which wide-differential causes flight of industry/business from one State to another.

Subsidy for replantation of rubber

*214. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY; SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to stop subsidy for replantation of rubber in certain parts of the country; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the rate of subsidy being given to farmers at present and what are the criteria followed for the purpose; and

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider the move to stop subsidy for replantation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) From 1985-86 subsidy for replantation is available to growers owning upto 5 hecs. of plantation in the traditional areas. However, for the non-traditional areas, the subsidies are available for all the growers.

(b) Budgetary constraints have made it obligatory to confine the subsidies to small growers in the traditional areas.

(c) (i) capital subsidy at the rate of Rs. 5000/- per hec. for small growers owning upto 5 hecs. of plantation in the traditional areas and to all growers in the non-traditional areas.

(ii) Polybag plant aubsidy at the rate of Rs. 6 for each successfully established plant subject to a. maximum of Rs. 2700/- per hec. to all growers.

(iii) Interest subsidy *ot* the rate of 3 per cent on loans availed by the growers under the NABARD Scheme to small growers in traditional areas (upto 5 hecs) and to all growers in the nou-traditional areas.

(d) No, Sir.

World Bank aid utilisation by India

*215. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by a senior official of the World Bank, Mr. David Hopper, criticising India's poor rate of aid utilisation; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is aware of press reports about India's aid utilisation. However, no communication on the subject has been received from Mr. David Hopper. It may be stated that in Bank FY 86 (let 7uly 1985 to 30th June 1986) combined IDA/IBRD disbursements amounted to about US \$ 11.4 billion compared to US \$11.0 billion in FY 85, giving an increase of 3.36 per cent. Disbursements to India in FY 86 were US \$ 1366 million compared to US \$ 1046.2 million in FY 85 giving an increase of 30.5 per cent.

Normally, World Bank group assisted projects are implemented over periods el-tending over five to seven years. The assistance committed is utilised over the entire span of the project.

Drawal of funds has to be in accordance with specific disbursement schedules and the entire committed loans/credits cannot be drawn immediately. Therefore undisbursed amounts will persist right upto the rredit/loan terminal date of disbursement, leading to undrawn balances at the end of each Bank fiscal year.

Export policy for cotton

*216. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHA-KRISHNA:

SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pJ eased to state;

(a) whether Government have recently acnonuced a long-term cotton export policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Government announced a long term cotton export policy on 24th October, 1986, according to which the following quantities of cotton would be exported per year for a period of three years beginning with the cotton season 1986-87:—

- (i) Long and extra-long Cotton 5 lakh bales
- (ii) Digvijay variety of cotton 50,000 bales
- (iii) Bengal Deshi cotton 50,000 bales

Bank debt

*217. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to 'state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bank debt write-off power has been decentralised; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) In view of the expansion of business and the increase in the number of branches and offices, Reserve Bank of India have advised ajl the Public Sector Banks that