

We need to see that products which are under certain price pressure are not exported, to bring down scarcity situation in the country in the domestic field. What we do is that we are banning the exports. And, we are continuing to do that, So, the export arena, the foreign trade, the domestic distribution system, the supply in our agriculture are all in place. But one thing with which I do agree is that agriculture continues to be the Achilles' heel of the Indian economy. In spite of all that you do it still continues to be the Achilles' heel, and that can only be countered or faced through a concerted and effective manner, and, that is where the agriculture scientists like Dr. Swaminathan and others need to come in to help us out.

These programmes which the Government is taking up for strengthening the rural economy should also go to help that particular thing. If NREGA's profile has been changed, it could further be changed to see that it helps the agriculture more under the rural regular infrastructure. What we need today more in the agriculture field is the power, the water. With all said and done it is the functioning of PDS, the targeted PDS – let us keep the PDS aside for some time go for whom we mean it. If that is strengthened, what would happen is that this price frustration will not affect the man whom we want to serve. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call the next speaker, let us take up laying of papers.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Public Enterprises Survey - Annual Report (2008-09)

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Public Enterprises Survey (Volumes I, II and III) Annual Report on the performance of Central Public Sector Enterprises, for the year 2008-09. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1713/15/10]

Notifications of the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training), under sub-section (1) of Section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985: