

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The MRTP Act 1969 which came into force with effect from 1-6-1970 contains the provisions *inter-alia* for the control of monopolies. It is also one of the objects of the said Act to provide to see that the operation of economic system does not result in the concentration of economic power to the common detriment. The recommendations of the High Powered Expert Committee (Sachar Committee) on the modifications necessary for making the Act more effective have been considered by the Government and a comprehensive Bill on the basis of the decisions taken by the Government is likely to be introduced shortly.

Bringing Public Sector Enterprises within the Purview of MRTP Act

609. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has recommended to bring the Public Sector enterprises within the purview of the MRTP Act; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The MRTP Commission while commenting on the Sachar Committee's recommendation in this regard has suggested

that under section 3 of the MRTP Act, the MRTP Act shall apply to (i) any undertaking owned or controlled by Government company; (ii) any undertaking owned or controlled by the Central Government or State Government; and (iii) any undertaking owned or controlled by corporations (not being

a company) established by or under any Central or State Act provided however that the Central Government, in consultation with the MRTP Commission, may exempt any such undertaking from the application of this Act. However, it had further been stipulated that Chapter III of the Act essentially concerned with substantial expansion, setting up of new undertakings and amalgamation & merger etc. was not to apply to these categories of undertakings. In addition, the Commission had also recommended that undertakings the management of which has been taken over by any person or persons in pursuance of any authorisation made by Central/State Governments should also come within the purview of the Act.

Exploitation of Labourers

610. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have collected any data to ascertain the extent of widespread exploitation of labour by contractors and existence of 'bonded labour' systems in various States in our country; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to check the evil of bonded labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) Government have not collected any data relating to exploitation of labour by contractors. However, data regarding existence of bonded labour system in various states has been obtained. Statement indicating the number of bonded labourers identified, freed and rehabilitated in different States as per the reports received from the State Governments on 30-6-82 is appended.

(b) The bonded labour system has been abolished throughout the country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers rests entirely with the State Governments who are the Appropriate