

Ban on futures trading

†2625. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wrong futures trading policy of Government have resulted in extreme inflation and has encouraged the practice of speculation to a greater extent;

(b) whether it is a fact that billions of Indian currency is going abroad leading to hike in most of the commodities as a result thereof;

(c) whether demonstrations and dharnas are being staged to mark protest against futures trading and Members of Parliament of various political parties have also submitted memorandum in protest of futures trading;

(d) whether Government would consider to impose ban on futures trading in order to check inflation;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As per media reports there have been protests against rise in prices of essential commodities and a demand for strict regulation of commodity futures Exchanges. No memorandum from Members of Parliament protesting against futures trading has been received during this year by Ministry of Finance.

(d) to (f) There is no such proposal at present. The recent rise in prices of agricultural commodities has been mainly due to shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand and hardening of prices in the international markets.

Exemption of Excise Duty on Pharmaceutical Products

2626. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pharma industry is enjoying the benefits of Excise duty in some States;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.