

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The objective of the Act is to provide, for the establishment of a Commission, to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers, and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by participants in markets in India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(b) and (c) The Competition Commission of India was set up on 14th October, 2003. The Commission at present has one Member. The Competition Act was subject to legal challenges and the Supreme Court had stayed judicial functioning of the Commission. The Supreme Court has delivered its Judgement on 20.01.2005. So far, the Commission has undertaken preparatory and foundational work required for setting up a new organisation, organised/participated in a number of competition awareness activities, set up a web-site, attempted draft rules and regulations and has interacted with academic bodies and professional institutes for inclusion of competition policy and law in the course curriculum. These activities were aimed at generating greater awareness about competition issues amongst relevant stakeholders.

### **Registered companies**

†21. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of registered companies in the country;
- (b) the number of inactive companies out of the registered companies;
- (c) whether there is any scheme under consideration of Government to close those companies which are not operating; and
- (d) if not, the scheme formulated by Government for the operation of all the registered companies and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) The total number of registered companies in the country as on 31.10.2004 is 6,65,221.

(b) Although there are inactive companies, it is not feasible to indicate the exact number of such companies.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.