

The members of the Consortium pledged economic assistance of US \$3.4 million for the year 1980-81 subject to necessary approvals under their respective laws and regulations.

To meet the worsening balance of payments situation, discussions have already been concluded with the International Monetary Fund for drawal of assistance under the Trust Fund and the Compensatory Financing Facility. Steps have also been initiated for close monitoring of externally aided projects with a view to increase the pace of drawal of external assistance during the year.

Transfer of officers of the Central Board of Direct Taxes

232. SHRI SUNER SINGH BHANDARI:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD
MATHUR: SHRI HARISHANKAR
BHA-BHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to press report captioned "I.T.O.'s postings Transfers on sale";

(b) whether it is a fact that on April 8, 1980 the Central Board of Direct Taxes transferred 188 officers and within 18 days more than 10 of these transfers were cancelled while on May 29 another 13 transfer orders and on June 3, 12 more were cancelled;

(c) whether it is also a fact that certain officers have continued to remain in plum revenue districts for 8 to 10 years in spite of C.B.D.T.'s regulations to the contrary; and

(d) what effective steps are being taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) During the period April, May 1980, 194 transfers/postings of ITCs (Group A) were made. Of these, 1 transfers in respect of 60 officers were cancelled on compassionate grounds or in the public interest. None of them, however, was allowed to remain in the same district for long period.

Panel to scrutinise public sector units

233. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:
SMT. USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a panel to scrutinise the working of each public sector unit on priority basis; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohd. Fazal, Member Planning Commission, for undertaking study of selected public sector units particularly those which are incurring heavy losses. The membership of the Committee and its terms of reference are under consideration.

Manufacturers and packers to notify reduction in prices

234. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:
SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the manufacturers and packers to notify reduction in prices to their dealers right up to the retail stage because of the slash in excise duties in the current budget; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The attention of the manufacturers, packers and dealers right up to the retail stage was drawn through the press to the need for protecting the interests of consumers by fully reflecting the budget provisions for reduction of excise duties in the prices of the concerned commodities. Further in respect of the items covered by the Department of Industrial Development, they have called upon the concerned manufacturers/associations to take action for passing on the benefits of excise duty concessions to consumer.

Report of the Gold Policy Review Committee

235. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:
SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gold Policy Review Committee has submitted its report to the Government recently;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Copies of the Report of the Gold Policy Review Committee 1979 have been placed in the Parliament Library for perusal of Hon. Members. The decision on the recommendations of the Committee will be taken after the report of Shri K. R. Puri also becomes available.

Take-over of sick tea gardens

236. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH
PANDE: SHRI
ROSHAN LAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of sick tea gardens which come under the Tea Act, 1953; and

(b) what steps have been taken for the early takeover of their management to ensure employment to tea labourers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A tea garden is treated as sick only after investigation has established this fact. The provisions of Sections 16B to 16E of the Tea (Amendment) Act, 1976 enumerate the circumstances under which the Central Government can cause investigation, issue directives, assume management or control, or take-over a tea undertaking/unit even without investigation in specific circumstances. 15 Tea Estates have so far come under the purview of the Tea Act and out of these, the Government have taken over management of 5 Tea Estates. Management of another Tea Estate which was taken over under these provisions had to be handed back to the owners due to legal difficulties. Affairs of 11 Tea Estates in West Bengal, 4 in Assam and 1 in Tripura are also being looked into by the Central Government in terms of the Tea Act.

New Directors for Mohini Mills Limited appointed by WCI

237. SHRI KALYAN ROY: SHRI
BHOLA PRASAD; SHRI B. D.
KHOBRADE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 664 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th March, 1980 and state: