

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) The number of industrial disputes where the Central Government is the appropriate authority was 814 on 31st January, 1980.

(b) 84.

(c) 1132.

(d) 376.

(e) Government is not ordinarily a party to such appeals and information on their number is not available with Government.

Raids under the Prevention of the Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980

65. DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids on shops, godowns and establishments under the provisions of the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 in the Union Territory of Delhi till the third week of February, 1980;

(b) the number of prosecutions launched under the said Act; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating selective approach under the Act; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No raids on shops, godowns and establishments were conducted under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. Under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities

Ordinance, 1979, eight persons were detained, who were later released. No prosecution was launched either under the Ordinance or the Act mentioned above. However, action for lodging of F.I.R. against 103 dealers was taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 since November, 1979.

(c) No, Sir.

Distribution of steel

66. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to formulate a new distribution policy for steel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no statutory control on distribution of steel at present. The distribution policy in respect of categories in short supply is, however, constantly under review and changes are made whenever necessary. The policy for 1980-81 in respect of such categories is now under consideration and it is expected to be announced by Joint Plant Committee shortly.

Extension of services of some Chairmen of nationalised banks

67. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Chairmen of nationalised banks who are due to retire in the next three months on completion of their tenure;

(b) whether any of them is likely to be given extension of service; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):

(a) The current tenure of appointment of four Chairmen of public sector banks is due to expire during the next three months.

(b) and (c) Action to appoint new incumbents or to re-appoint any of them will be taken by Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India at the appropriate time.

Black-marketing in steel

68. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the distribution of steel of common use for purposes of construction of building and agriculture has worsened in the country leading to black-marketing; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to eliminate the black-marketing in steel?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no statutory control on the prices and distribution of any categories of steel and therefore the question of "black-marketing" does not arise. However, certain categories are reported to be selling in the open market at prices higher than stockyard prices for these categories. Steps have been taken to increase the availabilities of these categories by banning fresh commitments for exports and arranging imports of sufficient quantities of such categories. Operation of Clause 7 of the Iron & Steel Control Order, 1956 has since been revived to prevent the misuse of steel by persons to whom it has been allotted for specific purposes. Violation of this Clause by anyone would render him liable for action under the provisions of Iron & Steel Control Order and under the Essential Commodities Act. Small house builders are also being supplied

quantities upto 5 tonnes a unit at stockyard prices and for this purpose, some quantities of bars and rods have been earmarked specifically.

Decline in woollen carpet export

69. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of woollen carpets has been declining during the current financial year because of withdrawal of incentives; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to increase export of this commodity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Provisional figures of exports of woollen hand-knitted carpets show some decline in exports, but the final picture will emerge only when late returns are accounted for. The structure of incentives is reviewed by the Government from time to time and suitable remedial measures, as and when necessary, are taken.

12 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Statement showing the Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Hundred and Twelfth Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Hundred and Twelfth Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President. [Placed in Library. See No. LT- 389/80].

I. (i) Report and Accounts (1978-79) of the State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi and related papers.