

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK); (a) and (b) The tentative proposals published by the Tribunals for working journalists and non-journalist newspaper employees do not indicate the wage increases involved. Computation of the wage increases as well as the financial burdens would have to await the final report of the Tribunals.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government will decide on the action to be taken after the final recommendations of the Tribunals are received.

Recommendation of the Rath Committee

•198. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR; SHRI KALYAN ROY; SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "Consumer Index Panel Report Accepted" published in the Business Standard of the 10th February, 1980;

(b) what are the main recommendations contained in the said Report;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations; and

(d) by when the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee's Report was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August, 1978. The major recommendations of the Committee relate to Family Living Survey, pricing of rationed and non-rationed items, House Rent Index, introduction of the 1971 base series, Price Collection Procedure and Machinery and desirability.

of associating users' interests with the process of price collection work.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Committee are under examination.

Export of basmati <rice

*199. SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of basmati rice is canalised or is being allowed by private individuals;

(b) what are the names of countries which are buyers of basmati rice;

(c) whether Government have fixed export price of basmati rice; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Export of basmati rice is allowed under Open General Licence.

(b) The major importing countries of Basmati rice from India are United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and U.K.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Minimum export price has been fixed as under:—

	R-	per
	tonne (f.o.b.)	
Polished Basmati rice . . .	5,500	
Unpolished Basmati rice . . .	5,000	
Paddy Basmati rice . . .	4,000	

Re-structuring of Indirect Taxes

*200. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Merchants Chamber of Commerce in their memorandum submitted to Government have suggested that the structure of indirect taxes

should be built up in such a manner that it helps industries which have become sick due to demand recession;

(b) if so, what are the other suggestions made by the chamber;

(c) whether their suggestions have been considered; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government have agreed with their views?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Merchants Chamber has made several suggestions relating to indirect taxes. The more important of them are as follows;

(i) Necessary excise relief should be provided to industries which have become sick because of increased prices of raw materials, constant prices of end-products and demand recession.

(ii) There should be a provision for rebate of indirect taxes borne by raw material and components. Further extension of this tax credit procedure may be considered, particularly to heavily-taxed items.

(iii) The burden of indirect taxes on critical inputs like electricity, steel and cement should be minimum.

(iv) Plant and machinery installed in new undertakings should be free of customs and excise duties; the production of such undertakings should also be exempted from excise duty for an initial stipulated period.

(v) Indirect taxes should be in the ascending order for (a) capital goods, (b) raw materials and intermediates, (c) goods of mass consumption and (d) durable consumer goods.

(vi) Since 95 per cent of the revenue is derived from 40 commodities, it may be considered whether the remaining commodities should be freed from the excise net.

(vii) Relief from Central Excise duty should be provided to industries set up in backward areas.

(viii) The rate of Central excise duty in respect of factories run mainly with manual labour should be kept at a "lower level."

(ix) Basic and auxiliary duties of customs need not be levied separately.

(x) No countervailing duty should be levied on imports where similar products are not produced indigenously.

(xi) Higher production incentive scheme which lapsed on 31-3-79 should be revived.

(c) and (d) The above suggestions will be considered along with other pre-Budget representations.

Export of rice

*200-A SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN:
SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:

Will, the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) what is the quantum of rice exported during the year 1979;

(b) what are the countries to which such exports were effected during the last two years;

(c) what is the quantum of rice proposed to be exported during the year 1980; and

(d) what is the amount of foreign exchange India has earned therefrom, country-wise, during the last two years?

Previously Starred Question No. 210, transferred from the 26th March 1980.