

steps taken in this connection are the following:

(1) Diversification of product-mix;

(2) Modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and machinery.

(3) Greater emphasis on Research & Development

(4) More concerted export drive for improving demand;

(5) Streamlining procedure for import of raw-material/components and capital goods;

(6) Improving labour productivity and industrial relations by participative management;

(7) Improving managerial efficiency by training and development.

Regarding Public sector undertakings into consumer goods industry

577. SHRI BHIM RAJ:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI.
SHRIMATI HAMIDA
HABIBULLAH:
SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector undertakings propose to enter into consumer goods industry with a view to making available items of consumer goods to common man at reasonable prices; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) The Central Government Public Enterprises are already operating in the consumer goods industry i.e., in the areas concerned with the production of bread, drugs, coal, kerosene, patrol, watches, scooters,

cement, paper and newsprint, photo films, textiles, T. V. sets, Fertilisers, insecticides etc. Working of Public Enterprises engaged in the consumer goods industry is constantly kept under review to assess the need for further expansion, especially in terms of Industrial Policy Statement of 1977, with the object of bringing about stability in the supplies of essential goods to the consumers.

Legislation to safeguard the deposits in non-banking companies

578. SHRI BHIM RAJ:
SHRIMATI HAMIDA
HABIBULLAH:
SHRIMATI RATAN
KUMARI:
SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA:
SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to tighten further the law relating to the safeguard of the interests of the persons who deposit money in non-banking or non-financial companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIKARULLAH): (a) and (b) The High Powered Expert Committee set up by Government under the Chairmanship of Justice Shri Rajinder Sachar to review the provisions of the Companies and Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Acts has recommended, *inter-alia* certain measures for safeguarding the interest of persons depositing money in Non-banking Non-financial companies. These recommendations are now under active consideration of Government and appropriate steps including legislative amendments to give effect to the recommendations, will be taken as soon as possible.