

Alotment of copper

1525. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAYA:
SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a request from the President of the All India Small Scale Cable and Conductors Manufacturers Association for intervening in the decision of the interdepartment committee of the Chief Controller of the Imports and Exports to defer the allotment of copper to new and existing small scale industrial units; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) public Notices No. 86-ITC(PN)/78, and 92-ITC(PN)/78 were issued on the 17th November, 1978 and 12th December 9, 1978, respectively, enabling eligible Actual Users (Industrial to get their unserved requirements for July-September, 1978 quarter directly from the MMTC in the October-december, 1978 period. Requests of new units are also being decided by the Inter-Departmental Committee set up for the purpose.

Non-Surrender of high denomination currency notes

1526. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 20 crores worth of high denomination notes have not so far been declared; and

(b) if so, what is the number of the notes in each of the denominations of Rs. 1000; Rs. 5000 and Rs. 10,000 which still remain untendered?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) High Denomination Notes for a total value of Rs. 20.39 crores were not surrendered by the due date of 24th January, 1978.

(b) Such denomination-wise details are not available and compilation of this information will take too much time and labour.

Price Commission for Non-agricultural/edible oils

†1527. SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a "Price Commission for non-agricultural/edible oil"; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Creation of a National Equity Fund

1528. SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working group set up by Government to suggest measures for extending institutional and bank credits has recommended creation of a National Equity Fund;

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

(c) whether the recommendations of the working group will also be made applicable to State sponsored schemes?

†Previously Unstarred Question 987 transferred from the 6th December, 1978.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). The working Group on Sick Units set up by Government, after the meeting of P.M. with the Chairmen of banks has recommended that a National Equity Fund should be set up at national level so that small scale units are not set up with weak equity base. The Working Group on small scale industries has also recommended that for tiny sector industries with investment in plant and machinery not exceeding Rs. 1 lakh, there is need to provide equity support from budgetary sources. Such equity loans should be on soft terms and there should not be any repayment for first 5 to 7 years. Thereafter it should repaid in a further period of 5—7 years. Only a nominal interest should be charged on the loan, and repayment of interest should start only after the moratorium period. The equity assistance should be for a minimum amount of Rs. 5000 and maximum of Rs. 50,000 subject to 25 per cent of the total cost of the scheme.

(c) Once these recommendations are implemented, they would be applicable to individual tiny sector units, under State sponsored schemes.

Report of senior officers on areas of corporation in the customs and excise department

1529. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-BULLAH:

SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA:

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of senior officers have submitted a report to Government on areas of corruption in the Customs and Excise Department; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report brings out the areas and points where corruption is possible and has to be guarded against, but does not refer to any specific instances of corruption. To guard against misuse of the detailed information contained in the report by officers or assesseees, the report is being treated as a confidential document so far as the general public is concerned. However, some important suggestions of a general nature which are contained in the report are given in the Statement.

Statement

Abstract of some important suggestions of a general nature contained in the Report of the Working group on areas of corruption in the Customs and Excise Department

1. Proper attention should be paid to selection of primary and supervisory staff and to arrangements for effective vigilance control at sensitive points.

2. Effective vigilance will need to be backed by a sound system of intelligence, covering evasion and collusion.

3. Institutionalised corruption should be located and the guilty officers or their agents or touts should be exposed.

4. Unexplained fall in revenue should be critically examined to ensure that it is not due to collusive corruption.

5. Reiteration to senior officers of the need for personal attention in such matters as avoidance of unduly long suspension, minimising delays in disciplinary proceedings, preparation of 'Agreed List' of officers of doubtful integrity and strengthening of administration by weeding out the corrupt and inefficient.

6. Need for close liaison between the various Directorates, such as Inspection, Audit, Organization and