

than the monetary reserves of the country. There will, therefore, be no adverse impact on the stability of our currency.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of edible oils

*197. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oils which Government proposed to import during 1977-78 and the actual quantity imported during the year;

(b) the reasons for the increased imports of edible oils and the extent of foreign exchange involved; and

(c) the impact of these imports on the availability of edible oils at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) to (c) Adequate care is taken to see that requisite quantities of edible oils are being imported to ensure easy availability of this essential commodity to the consumers at reasonable prices. During the Oil Year 1977-78, (November to October) STC has so far imported 2.7 lakh tonnes of edible oils valued approximately at Rs. 128.48 crores. It will not be in the interest of the country to disclose the other information. Along side imports, measures, both short-term and long-term, are being taken to increase production of edible oils geared to progressive and gradual self-sufficiency. Owing to the liberalised Import Policy, the availability position of edible oils is easy and prices are ruling at reasonable rates fairly steadily over time.

Strikes in Public Undertakings

†*198. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVARE-KAR:

SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANISHANKAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of workers of public sector undertakings went on strike during the past three months;

(b) if so, what were the demands of the workers of each of the undertakings;

(c) what steps Government have taken to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Recommendations of the Raj Panel on the working of Public Sector Banks

*199. Shri VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI S. W. DHABE:

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT:

SHRI BAPURAOJI MAROT-RAOJI DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of the James Raj Panel appointed by the Reserve Bank of India to study the working of the public sector banks; and

(b) what action Government have taken or proposed to take on these recommendations?

†Previously Starred Question 144, transferred from the 21st July, 1978.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) The James Raj Committee appointed to study the functioning of Public Sector Banks, submitted its Final Report to the Reserve Bank of India in April, 1978. The recommendations contained in the Report are under examination in the Reserve Bank, and it is intended to make them public along with the decisions of the Bank on them.

Study Group on Wages, Income and Prices

*200. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in terms of the recommendations made by the Study Group on Wages, Income and Prices headed by Shri Boothalingam, Government propose to freeze wages of the workers and salaries of the employees, while exploring the possibility of rising the wages/incomes at higher stratas by constituting a Pay Commission; and

(b) whether Government have discussed the report with the representatives of the various categories of wage earners and employers and if so, what is their reaction to the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The report is still under examination of the Government.

(b) No, Sir, but the Government proposes to consult the concerned interests before taking final decisions on the Report.

Imposition of Central Farm Tax

*201. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Study Group appointed by his Ministry has recommended the imposition of Central Farm Tax; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The Study Group on Wages, Incomes and Prices has recommended, inter alia, that, as part of overall incomes policy of curbing excessively high non-wage incomes, direct taxes should be extended to the agricultural sector which is largely outside the tax net at present. It has, however, not recommended imposition of a Central Farm Tax.

(b) Does not arise.

Instructions issued to S.T.C. regarding the sale of imported cars.

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

(a) whether Government have issued any instructions to the State Trading Corporation to sell cars only to those buyers who have cleared their income-tax arrears; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir; the Government has not issued any instructions to the State Trading Corporation to sell cars only to those buyers who have cleared their income-tax arrears.

Tourist Centres

*203. SHRI T. ANJIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist centres maintained by the Central Government in the country as at the end of the last financial year; and

(b) how many of them were developed during the last financial year itself and what is the target for setting up such centres during 1978-79?