

# DECENTRALISATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNDER TAKINGS

310. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the decentralisation of the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) whether any decision has been arrived at in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) Government have recognised the need for greater delegation of powers—financial and administrative—to the public enterprises, as also within the enterprises from the Board level down the line, for improving the efficiency of these enterprises. In keeping with this decision, enhanced financial and administrative powers have been delegated to the enterprises. Some of the more important ones are indicated below:—

(i) The Boards of Directors are authorised to sanction capital expenditure without prior reference to Govt. within specified limits on projects coming within the approved objectives of the enterprises, allowing powers to sanction upto variations not exceeding 10% on any particular component.

(ii) The public enterprises need not submit their revenue budget for prior approval except where Govt. is to make up the deficit.

(iii) The enterprises have been permitted to approach financial institutions for assistance in financing their expansion programmes, under certain conditions.

(iv) Public Enterprises are empowered to make appointments to all posts themselves, excluding those of Directors on the Board and General Managers of constituent units, irrespective of salary ceilings.

(v) Recognising that uniformity is not possible in the matter of pay and allowances, the enterprises have been empowered to decide on the service conditions of their employees within the requirements of overall rationalisation.

(vi) The enterprises have also been instructed that there should be clear delegation of powers at all levels beginning from the Chief Executives to the Functional Directors, the General Managers of constituent units, Heads of Departments and Managers down the line.

# LEVY OF EDUCATIONAL CESS

311. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to levy educational cess; and

(b) if so, what is the purpose behind such a levy and what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI SIDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The levy of an educational cess is a matter to be decided by each State Government and the Government of India cannot levy such a cess directly.

The rationale for the levy of an educational cess is this: At present, the allocations for education fall short of the requirements of full development of education at all levels. It has therefore become necessary to mobilize local resources in all possible ways for supporting educational effort. The Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, therefore, has recommended to the State Governments several measures for raising additional resources. These include the levy of an educational cess earmarked for primary education.

# REGISTRATION OF FIRMS

312. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:

DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firms with assets of Rs. 20 crores or more which have been registered with Government as required under Section 26 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act;

(b) the number of such firms which have failed to get registered under the Act; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against such firms?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) Upto 30th March, 1971, 598 undertakings coming within ambit of clause (a) of Section 20 of the MRTP Act, 1969, have been registered under Section 26 of the Act.

(b) and (c) It is very difficult to indicate this number, as under the Act the onus for registration is on the undertaking. Government have issued notices to 30 undertakings so far asking them to show cause as to why action should not be taken against them for not registering themselves under Section 26 of the Act.