

[14 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

- (i) defining corporatisation and demutualisation;
- (ii) limiting the organisational form of a stock exchange to a corporate entity;
- (iii) specifying the procedure for corporatisation and demutualisation (including approval of scheme for corporatisation and demutualisation by the Securities and Exchange Board of India);
- (iv) specifying the time limit within which the shares shall be disinvested by stock brokers under the scheme of corporatisation and demutualisation;
- (v) restricting the voting rights of brokers as shareholders, and brokers' participation on governing boards of stock exchanges so as to plug the loopholes inherent in governance of stock exchanges whose organisational form is mutual.

Increase in customs duty on import of cotton

1203. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations regarding demand to increase the customs duty on import of cotton which is presently quite low at 10 per cent to save the cotton farmers in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the customs duty on import of cotton to the maximum level of 40 per cent as has been done in case of silk etc.; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No. Sir, this Ministry has not received any representation demanding increase in customs duty on import of cotton recently.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) While fixing the import duty rate on cotton, Government takes into account the need to protect the domestic producers, and also the need to

make available the raw material to users at reasonable prices in consultation with the concerned administrative Ministries. An import duty of 10 per cent is considered adequate for this purpose.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Recovery of loans from cotton farmers

1204. SHRI SHARADANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to avoid coercive recoveries of loans given to cotton farmers in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued regarding restricting the burden of interest less than the principal amount in order to remove indebtedness in cotton farmers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the same would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loan granted to North Eastern States

1205. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of mid-term loan granted to the North Eastern States during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): During current financial year, so far, medium term loan of Rs. 609 crore has been sanctioned to Manipur.

Increase in net revenue receipts

1206. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a considerable increase in net revenue