

conducted surveys in various parts of the country on vegetable vendors to detect undisclosed stock/income.

(b) The details are not centrally maintained in the Ministry. The information will have to be collected from field formations of the Income Tax Department spread in various parts of the country. The time and effort required for collection of the information may not be commensurate to the objective sought to be achieved.

Environmental effectiveness and Economic aspect of EPR

648. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered the economic aspects of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR);

(b) if so, whether Government has undertaken any evaluation of the environmental effectiveness and economic efficiency of EPR policies in other Asian countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the manner in which Government has obtained the information and data on the performance of EPR policy;

(e) whether Government has received any representations from the public representatives on EPR scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) The Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 4th February, 2011 and the draft notification on e-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2010, incorporate the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). As per the concept of EPR, the manufacturers have the responsibility to establish collection centres for the end of life of their products, either collectively or individually. The concept of EPR has been adopted as being practised in various countries, including those in the European Union, and Japan, requiring the manufactures to take responsibility for the end of life of

their products and to ensure the waste from such products is channelised for safe handling. However, no evaluation of the environmental effectiveness and economic efficiency of EPR policies has been carried out by this Ministry.

Loans against deposits for senior citizens

649. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no provision of loan or overdraft against the deposits under the Senior Citizen Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for imposing such a condition which goes against the normal banking practice; and

(c) whether Government would relax the condition for emergency reasons like hospitalization, death of spouse etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, 2004 (SCSS), was designed to meet the need of a regular flow of income for the senior citizens and retired persons with security of investment, liquidity of funds and operational convenience. Keeping in view the above, higher-rate of interest at 9 percent per annum is offered to all senior citizens under this scheme. Persons who are 60 years of age and above can make a deposit under the scheme. Those retired persons who are 55 years of age and above but below 60 years are also eligible to invest their retirement benefits subject to maximum deposit limit of Rs. 15 lakh under the scheme.

Facility of loan or overdraft against the deposit would necessitate pledging of the deposit under this scheme. As a consequence, the subscriber of a pledged account will not be able to withdraw the interest amount periodically defeating the very purpose of the scheme.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Reconstitution of distributorships

650. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :