

tion on the lines of Delhi Telephones Advisory Committee;

- (b) if so, by what time; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). An Advisory Council on Public Distribution System (PDS) has been already constituted for reviewing the functioning of the PDS, the management of supplies of essential commodities and other related matters. This is a High Powered Body consisting, among others, of Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies of State Governments etc.

Decontrol of Indigenous Newsprint

4773. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of newspapers have demanded the decontrol of indigenous newsprint and withdrawal of sales tax thereupon;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered their demands; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Newsprint is an essential commodity and regulated under Newsprint Control Order, 1962. The gap between domestic supply and demand is met through import. Government's response to issues such as decontrol is always conditioned by its over-

riding concern for the healthy growth of the Press in the country.

Sales tax is a State subject under the constitution. The Central Government do not have powers to issue directive to the State Governments for withdrawal of sales tax on any commodity.

[English]

Food Processing Units in Chittoor District

4774. SHRI MAHASAMUDRAM GYANENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to set up food processing units in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO):

(a) to (c). Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not directly set up food processing industries in any state. However various Plant Schemes have been formulated by this Ministry to provide financial assistance to the state Governments, State Government Undertakings, their cooperative Societies, and Public Sector Undertakings to set up food processing industries in different states. Under these Schemes a proposal was received from the District Industries Centre, Department of Industries, Chittoor, for seeking assistance for setting up a Quality control Lab at Chittoor, in March, 1991. They have been requested to submit their proposal through the Andhra Pradesh State Government in accordance with guidelines of this Ministry. So far nothing has been heard from