

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Board of LIC was reconstituted with effect from 1.9.1980. No further re-constitution has been considered in view of the proposed re-organisation of the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Suspension of Clearing Operation by R.B.I. in Clearing House, Madras

2192. SHRI D.S.A. SIVAPRAKASHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the Reserve Bank of India suspended clearing operation in clearing house for a few days in Madras recently;

(b) if so, what prompted the Board to take such steps; and

(c) has the Reserve Bank of India taken such action previously, if so, for what purposes?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The clearing operations at the clearing house in Madras were suspended on 31st August and 1st September 1982.

(b) The clearing on 27th and 30th August 1982 did not balance and it was found necessary to suspend clearing on 31st August and 1st September 1982 to enable the house to balance the clearing of these days.

(c) Yes, Sir. Similar action was taken in the past also due to persistent differences on account of mistakes in schedules and to enable the house to balance the hearing house transactions.

Misuse of licence for production of Vanaspati by M/s. Hindustan Lever

2193. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Ltd. are misusing the licences issued to them for the production of Vanaspati, margarine, refined oils and industrial hard oil at Bombay, Shammagar and Tiruchirapalli year after year;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) to (c). Hindustan Lever Ltd. have been producing vanaspati at their Bombay, Shammagar and Tiruchirapalli factories in terms of an Industrial Licence issued in case of each of the units by the Government. The production of margarine, refined oil and industrial hard oil is being allowed by the Government in terms of the Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947, and various other Orders issued thereunder.

Utilisation of licenced capacity of Vanaspati for other oils by M/s. Hindustan Lever

2194. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Limited carries a total licenced capacity of 27,000 tonnes of vanaspati at Ghaziabad and whether part of the capacity meant for vanaspati is utilised for the manufacture of margarine refined oil and industrial hard oils;

(b) if so, the details of the respective utilization for each of these items year by year;

(c) whether Hindustan Lever Limited was permitted such utilization on the body of the original licence issued to the Company for the manufacture of vanaspati;

(d) if not, the stage when such utilizations were permitted;

(e) whether at the time of permitting such utilizations by the Company, quantities in respect of margarine, refined oil and industrial hard oils were specified on the body of the licence or otherwise; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF): (a) to (f). Hindustan Lever Limited carries a total annual licenced capacity of about 20,7000 tonnes of vanaspati at Ghaziabad. The production of margarine, refined oils and industrial hard oils is allowed by the

Government in terms of the Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947, and various other orders issued thereunder within the licenced capacity.

Percentage utilisation of capacity

Year	Vanaspati Refined oil	Industrial Hard Oil	Margarine
1979	66.6	6.5	Nil (Neg)
1980	76.5	7.1	Nil
1981	96.0	6.1	Nil

Modernisation of Air Force, Naval and Land Forces

2195. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) The present position regarding the modernisation of Air Force, Naval Force and Land Force; and

(b) what steps, if any, are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). Modernisation of Armed Forces is a continuous process aimed at building up adequate defence preparedness. The main accent in the current Defence Plan continues to be on modernisation and replacement of equipment, on securing greater fire-power, mobility and more modern means of communication. Drawing up of long term Perspective Plans with regard to some of the important weapon systems and equipment have also been taken up. It will not be in the national interest to disclose further details.

Revision of Wages in Jute Industry

2197. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wage revision in the jute industry has been long over-due; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken

by Government to review the wage structure in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). A fresh Wage Revision Agreement is due in West Bengal between the jute industry and the jute mill workers as the validity of the Wage Agreement reached in January, 1979 has expired. It is understood that the Government of West Bengal and the jute industry have been holding consultations in this connection. So far as the nationalised jute mills under NJMC are concerned, they will also be abiding by any fresh Wage Agreement that may be reached.

Decentralisation of Imports

2198. SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to decentralise imports in accordance with its new technology policy as repeated in Economic Times dated 23rd August, 1982; and

(b) whether this promotes self-reliance or destroy it as has been the case in several public sector undertakings such as BHEL and imports of dairy equipment such as liquid nitrogen containers tetrapak etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). The Science Advi-