

exercise of option, be reverted to their parent offices. This is being followed.

**Setting up of a Commission for Reviewing the Working of the Public Sector Undertakings**

466. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a high-powered Commission to review the functioning of the Public Sector with particular reference to the criteria adopted in choosing locations for new units and inter-relationship between the Public and Private Sectors;

(b) if so, an outline thereof, and

(c) the time by which the Commission is likely to be set up and what will be its terms of reference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) to (c). Presumably, the hon. Member is referring to the High-level Action committee recently set up under the Chairmanship of Shri M. S. Pathak, Member, Planning Commission to review the working of existing public sector undertakings with a view to making recommendations for improving the operations of these undertakings. The Action Committee will devise ways and means of improving the performance of these undertakings and more particularly will concentrate on the following aspects :

- (1) Maximisation of production;
- (2) Minimisation of operating costs;
- (3) Good preventive maintenance;
- (4) Good employee/labour relations; and
- (5) Adequate R&D activities;

The Committee is likely to complete the examination of most of the public sector undertakings by June, 1973. The Bureau of Public Enterprises will function as Secretariat of the Action Committee.

There is no proposal under consideration of Government to set up any other Commission to study particularly the criteria adopted in choosing location of new units and the inter-relationship between the public and private sector enterprises. With regard to choice of location, Government have emphasized the importance of careful scrutiny of the techno-economic considerations weighing with the location of industrial units at the feasibility report and the detailed project report stages

**Enquiry into Debt Burden of States**

468. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the demand made by the Tamil Nadu Government for an independent inquiry into the problems of debt burden of States;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). The Government of Tamil Nadu have been referring from time to time to the need for setting up a debt Commission for going into the problem of debt burden of the States. The Central Government have, however, been of the view that the appointment of a Commission would not really serve any useful purpose.

**Soap Factories in India**

469. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of soap factories registered so far in India, under the Factories Act, 1948, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the quantity and value of toilet and washing soap manufactured during the last three years, year-wise;