

required to be levied on "Most Favoured Nation" (MFN) basis. However, in derogation of MFN duties, EU grants concessional treatment under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) to various developing countries. India is also one of the beneficiaries for GSP on floriculture which is figuring in the list of sensitive/very sensitive items and attracts a duty of 70%/85% of the applied MFN rate on exports of floriculture to EU. Under the EU GSP Scheme, exports from least developed countries (LDCs) and some other countries facing special problems enjoy better concessions than India.

(c) and (d). India has requested European Union for better GSP treatment.

Implementation of 10th Finance Commission Report

1170. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended to implement the 10th Finance Commission's recommendation regarding the pooling of all Central Taxes for sharing with the States.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame fixed for it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Planning Commission is not required to make any recommendation regarding the implementation of the Finance Commission's recommendations.

The recommendation of the 10th Finance Commission regarding pooling of the Central taxes for sharing with the States, is under examination by the Government of India and it also entails consultation with States.

National Judicial Academy

1171. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) when the National Judicial Academy was constituted and the details of its members and terms of reference;

(b) the details of works undertaken by the Academy since its constitution;

(c) whether a study team has been constituted to study the arrears of cases pending before the High Courts, Subordinate Courts and Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when this team is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The National Judicial Academy was registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 with the Registrar of Societies, Delhi on 17th August, 1993 and the Academy has come into existence with effect from that date. The Governing Council of the Academy has the following members :-

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|--|---|---------------------|
| (i) Chief Justice of India | - | Chairman |
| (ii) Two Member Judges of Supreme Court | - | Member |
| (iii) Secretary (Justice) | - | Member |
| (iv) Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs | - | Member |
| (v) Secretary, Department of Expenditure | - | Member |
| (vi) Registrar General, Supreme Court of India | - | Member/
Convenor |

The National Judicial Academy is required inter alia to provide training to the Judicial Officers of the States/UTs, study the Court Management and the Administration of Justice in the States/UTs and suggest improvement to the said system, and collaborate in promoting study of Court management with other institutions both within the country and abroad.

(b) The Academy is functioning from Delhi and takes up such programmes which can be handled from Delhi without the need for an infrastructural facility of its own. A training programme on "Court Administration" for Registry personnel has been conducted with experts from Californian Institute and National Informatics Centre in October, 1996 at Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy, Hyderabad. An orientation course on 'Gender and Law' for State Judicial Officers was conducted in March-April, 1996 at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi. It is proposed to arrange a dialogue on 'Regional Perspective on Gender Equality' at India International Centre, New Delhi in January, 1997.

(c) to (e). To improve Court Management with a view to speeding up disposal of pending cases at all levels, the Academy has set up a Study Team headed by its Director General. The Study Team will prepare a package of proposals for the improved functioning of Courts with particular emphasis on introduction and utilisation of modern court management techniques.

The Report on Court related ADR system would be finalised soon for implementation.

Criminalisation of Politics

1172. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any

change in the election code of conduct to prevent criminalisation of politics;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government to prevent criminalisation of politics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). The Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates was formulated by the Election Commission of India in consultation with political parties. Government, not being a party to its formulation, is not required to amend it.

(c) Section 8(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 disqualifies a person on conviction for certain offences mentioned in the section. This section also provides that any person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years shall be disqualified from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a period of six years since his release.

Disinvestment

1173. DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revised stand on Disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present stand of the Government in regard to the role of the public sector in the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The stand of the Government with regard to disinvestment and the role of Public Sector in the economy of the country is spelt out in the Common Minimum Programme. The Public Sector would continue to be an important component of the economy of the country.

Supply of Washed Coal to Power Plants

1174. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has expressed its inability to supply washed coal with low ash contents to thermal power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a committee to assess the techno-economic feasibilities of washed coal for power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the growing need of coal of power plants in eco-friendly manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (e). Coal India Ltd. are setting up two washeries at Bina (NCL) and Piparwar (CCL) for beneficiating non-coking coal. CIL have also initiated action to set up washeries under "Build-Own-Operate" scheme for supply of washed coal to power plants.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests have constituted an Expert Committee to examine the techno-economic issues of coal beneficiation for use by thermal power plants under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi. Representative of Ministry of Coal is also a member of the Committee. One of the terms of reference of the committee is to examine the techno-economic aspects of coal beneficiation and optimum ash reduction with particular reference to Indian Coals.

Review of Performance of Co-operative Banks

1175. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government review the performance of Co-operative Banks operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details of their performance and achievements vis-a-vis the targets fixed therefor during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated a plan of action to revitalise co-operative banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated therefor with special reference to such banks in Maharashtra;

(e) the quantum of loans provided by the Co-operative Banks and number of farmers benefited therefrom during each of the last three years, State-wise, with position of loans outstanding and the percentage of defaulting small and marginal farmers and

(f) the steps taken to deal with the problem of bad debt and standing overdues?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The achievement with regard to Priority Sector Lending of all banks including cooperative banks is reviewed in the Block Level Bankers' Committee (BLBC), District Consultative Committee (DCC) and the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC). Further, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) also periodically review the performance of the cooperative banks. NABARD also conducts statutory inspections of cooperative banks at periodic intervals.