

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the price spiral is on the increase;

(b) whether he is also aware that fixed income groups have been suffering most; and

(c) if so, what measures are envisaged to alleviate the suffering of this group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). The severe drought in the country has put pressure on prices of some important agricultural commodities during the current financial year. The Government has taken a number of steps to contain the price rise. The Public Distribution System has been strengthened to ensure availability of selected essential commodities at reasonable prices. Workers in the organised sector including Government employees are compensated for the rise in prices through payment of dearness allowance linked to the cost of living index. The workers in the unorganised sector are also sought to be compensated through periodic revision in the minimum wages to take into account the rise in the cost of living.

Export Monitoring Cells

*325. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up export monitoring cells in all State capitals; and

(b) the functions proposed to be assigned to these cells?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NAR-

AYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b). The Government have been keen to increase the involvement of the State Governments in export promotion efforts. A proposal for evolving a suitable mechanism both to sustain and promote export efforts at the State level is under consideration.

Investigation Into Export Deal by CCI

*326. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS:
SHRI LALITESHWAR
PRASAD SHAHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to enquire into an export deal by the Cotton Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIR-DHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been alleged that the value realisation was lower in certain export transactions of November, 1986.

(c) The report of the CBI has not been received.

Rama-Krishnayya Committee on Coffee, Tea and Rubber Boards

*327. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO:
SHRI YASHWANT RAO
GADAKH PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee headed by Shri Rama-Krishnayya has submitted report on the functioning of Coffee, Tea and Rubber Boards; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee to protect the interest of small growers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b). The Ramakrishnayya Committee has submitted its report on the 30th October, 1987.

2. The main recommendations of the Committee concerning small growers include:-

- (1) The large percentage of small growers in the case of Tea, Coffee and Rubber should be borne in mind while devising the management system for each commodity.
- (2) While the three Commodity Boards should be restructured to make them compact and more effective, the present extension network should be so structured as to provide necessary extension back-up to the small growers.
- (3) In the case of Tea and Coffee, the targetted segment within the small growers sector, who are wholly or substantially dependent on Tea or Coffee crop for their income, should be considered for special assistance.
- (4) Problems relating to production, development, processing and marketing faced by the small growers should be resolved.

(5) Measures should be evolved for improving the supply of credit to small growers.

(6) Greater coordination between State Governments and Commodity Boards should be attempted.

Proposal to Introduce Automatic Teller Machines in Banks

*328. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI:
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce self-service banking through automatic teller machines;

(b) if so, whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Electronic banking not yet suitable for India" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 26 October, 1987; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). Government have seen the news-item referred to in the Question. Reserve Bank of India has reported that two Indian public sector banks have submitted proposals for installation of Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) in some of their branches in India. No decision on these proposals has yet been taken by RBI pending formulation of a policy framework consistent with the needs and priorities of Indian Public Sector Banks after taking into account the legal aspects involved.