

(b) if so, the main proposals for economic development of the area discussed therein and the decisions taken thereon; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6051/66.*]

### Prices of Biscuits

\*1155. **Shri R. S. Pandey:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of biscuits have recently been increased by the manufacturers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to stabilise the prices of biscuits in the country?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya):** (a) and (b). The prices of biscuits have registered a slight increase during the last year due to increase in the prices of raw materials, packing materials etc.

(c) A watch is being kept on the trend of the prices of biscuits. The Federation of Biscuit Manufacturers have been advised to ensure reasonable level of prices of biscuits.

### Release of Pakistan-Bound Cargoes detained in India

\*1156. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Shree Narayan Das:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:**  
**Shri R. S. Pandey:**  
**Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:**  
**Shri M. Rampure:**  
**Shri Firodia:**

**Shri N. B. Laskar:**  
**Shri Lladhar Kotoki:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to return to third countries their Pakistan-bound cargoes detained in India; and

(b) if so, whether this decision has been taken unilaterally; and

(c) whether any indication of reciprocity has been given by Pakistan?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Yes, Sir. These cargoes are being released in favour of the third countries after verification that ownership of the goods is established to be with the third countries.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pakistan has not reciprocated this gesture so far.

### Coir Cooperative Marketing Societies in Kerala

**3686. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference of the Presidents of the Central Coir Co-operative Marketing Societies was held at Ernakulam;

(b) if so, the main decisions taken at the conference;

(c) whether any financial help was requested from Government; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):** (a) A meeting of the Presidents of Central Coir Marketing Co-operative Societies was held at Cochin.

(b) The conference is reported to have recommended the following:

(i) State participation in the Share Capital of Central Coir Marketing Societies;

(ii) Introduction of a production bonus of 5 paise per rupee