

(b) About 300 persons were reported to have been affected as a result of adulteration of edible oil.

(c) The provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act have been made more stringent and States have been asked to ensure proper enforcement of the Act.

Equity Capital

*239. **Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether money has become scarce in the Market with the result that equity capital is not forthcoming;

(b) whether causes for this sluggishness in the Money Market have been gone into; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):

(a) to (c). Investor interest in the equity capital market has suffered a set-back as a result of a number of developments such as the Chinese aggression Indo-Pakistan conflict last year and the pause in foreign aid from some sources thereafter, mobilisation of resources for strengthening the defence of the country, the step up in the structure of interest rates brought about over the last four years and the consequential increase in the yields on other forms of investment.

Land Reform Measures in Kerala

*240. **Shri Vasudevan Nair:**
Shri Warrior:

Will the Minister of Planning and Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have requested the Kerala Government to expedite the implementation of land reform measures;

(b) whether any steps are proposed to be taken in Kerala for the preparation of a record of rights; and

(c) the main directives given by the Planning Commission for the effective implementation of land reforms?

The Minister of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) All State Governments including the Government of Kerala have been requested to expedite the implementation of land reform measures.

(b) A scheme for the preparation of record of rights as a part of survey and settlement operations is being included in the Fourth Plan.

(c) The suggestions made for effective implementation of land reforms have been set out in the Draft Outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Smuggling Case in Calcutta Court

1059. **Shri Uttiya:**

Shri Madhu Limaye:

Shri Kishen Pattanayak:

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 594 on the 28th July, 1966 regarding Smuggling case in Calcutta Court and state:

(a) whether investigations have since been completed into the failure of a Calcutta Customs Officer to take proper and effective action, started following the seizure of Watches and Clocks and their parts of foreign make, imported by Calcutta firms; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri):

(a) There was no failure on the part of any Customs Officer to take proper and effective action. In the light of discussions with the Central Bureau of Investigation who are enquiring into the alleged conspiracy to forge the Import Licences in question, extension of time for filing complaint was prayed for from the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta. The Court declined to grant the extension, and discharged the accused persons.