

(ख) और (ग). इस संबंध में नीति में कोई नया परिवर्तन करने की फिलहाल कोई प्रत्यापना नहीं है ।

Scarcity of Essential Commodities

791. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN;
SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA;
PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR;
SHRI UGGRASEN;

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have not been able to take any action against the anti-social elements trying to exploit the scarcity of essential commodities;

(b) whether there was shortage of essential commodities in various States during the months of March and April, 1977; and

(c) the steps being taken to have a regular supply of essential commodities in the market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) (a) Enforcement of penal measures against anti-social elements trying to exploit the shortage of essential commodities is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government has advised the State Governments to have orders issued under the Essential commodities Act requiring the display of prices issued under the Essential Commodities. The Central Government has initiated action against those licensees who are alleged to have misused the licences given to them for the import of edible oils under the free licencing system.

(b) and (c). Due to shortage in the production in the previous year of some essential commodities like cotton, oil seeds and pulses, the availability

position was somewhat tight. During March-April, 1977, the position improved though the prices continued to be high. The immediate measures taken by the Government during March-April, 1977 to improve the supply of essential commodities to the consumers include:

(i) Release of more cereals through the public distribution system;

(ii) removal of the restrictions on inter-State movement of wheat;

(iii) increase in the releases of non-levy sugar for the months of May, June and July, 1977;

(iv) regulated export of potatoes and onions;

(v) continuance of imports of adequate quantities of edible oils through the State Trading Corporation and the private trade for supply to the Vanaspati industry and for direct consumption;

(vi) arrangements for the distributions of refined imported rapeseed oil for direct consumption through the State civil supplies organisations at a retail price of Rs. 8.50 a kilogram in some high consumption centres to begin with; and

(vii) staggering, to the extent possible export cement.

As a long term measure, the Government is working out details of building up a massive public distribution system for a number of essential commodities.

Remittances by Foreign Banks

792. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank's ban on remittances abroad by Foreign Companies has been defaulted by some

Foreign Banks, and if so, which are those banks and what is the amount involved;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank has ordered the Grindlays Bank to bring back to the country Rs. 3.5 crores, wrongly transferred under "Head Office Expenses" during 1974 and 1975; and

(c) whether Government have looked into the accounts of the foreign banks who have transferred huge amounts under the Heading, Head-office expenses, technical know-how, Collaboration arrangements and Import-Export Trade Bills during the last three or four years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Reserve Bank have not placed any ban on remittances abroad by foreign companies including foreign banks. The profits made by the foreign banks after deduction of Indian income-tax are allowed to be remitted abroad. The Reserve Bank has intimated that during the past three or four years foreign banks have generally conformed to the control regulations regarding remittances to head office.

(b) Reserve Bank has reported that during the years 1973, 1974 and 1975, the Grindlays Bank was asked to repatriate a sum of Rs. 57.87 lakhs in the aggregate which was not allowed by the Income-tax authorities as head office expenses. Grindlays Bank has repatriated the aforesaid amount, paid tax thereon and has been allowed to retransfer the balance abroad.

(c) The amounts to be allowed as head office expenses are being looked into by the Income-tax authorities as and when the foreign banks are assessed for tax. Reserve Bank will also examine, during its inspection of these banks, what categories of head office expenses claimed by them can be considered as legitimate.

विश्व बैंक से सहायता

793. श्री भीठा लाल पटेल :

श्री ईश्वर चौधरी :

क्या वित्त तथा राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वित्त मंत्री ने अपनी हाल की वाशिंगटन यात्रा के दौरान विश्व बैंक द्वारा भारत को सहायता दिए जाने के बारे में बातचीत की थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उप-बातचीत की मुख्य बातें क्या हैं और

(ग) भारत को वर्ष 1977-78 में वहां से कितनी सहायता राशि मिलने की सम्भावना है ?

वित्त तथा राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री (श्री एच० एम० पटेल) : (क) में (ग) विश्व बैंक के अध्यक्ष श्री मेकनामरा के साथ मेरी भेंट के दौरान विश्व बैंक ग्रुप द्वारा भारत को दी जाने वाली सहायता के प्रश्न पर सामान्य बातचीत हुई थी। किन्तु वर्ष 1977-78 के लिए विश्व बैंक द्वारा दी जाने वाली सहायता की मात्रा के बारे में कोई चर्चा नहीं हुई थी।

Foreign aid

794. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to go in for massive foreign aid so as to remove poverty within ten years; and

(b) whether Government have worked out the blue-print of a plan for massive foreign aid and its meaningful utilisation?