

(b) Government keeps a constant watch on the situation and action has been taken to moderate the price rise through (i) the augmentation of domestic availability by means of imports (e.g. edible oils, cotton and artificial fibres) or by placing restrictions on exports (e.g. potatoes, onions and tea), (ii) larger releases from Government stocks (e.g. foodgrains and sugar), and (iii) reduction of demand by changing compulsory usage regulations (e.g. 75 per cent use of imported oil in vanaspati manufacture and 10 per cent use of artificial fibres in the manufacture of cloth). Government will continue these measures as necessary. It also intends to strengthen the public distribution system.

(c) and (d). It is true that the expansion in money supply has broadly affected the level of prices. Government has sought to curb the inflationary impact of this by following a stringent credit policy. Restrictions have been placed on lending by banks against sensitive commodities to prevent speculative stock holding; expansion of credit by banks has been made difficult by impounding a part of their incremental deposit resources, by increasing the statutory cash reserve ratio and by making refinancing of bank lending by the Reserve Bank more restrictive.

Memorandum from Delhi Vegetable Oil Trade Association

877. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Vegetable Oil Trade Association has submitted a memorandum to deal with the present edible oil crisis in the country; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had already taken action on the lines indicated in some of the suggestions made by the Association. The other suggestions will be given due consideration in so far as they are consistent with the overall aim of the Government of making edible oil available to the consumers at reasonable prices.

Tourist Homes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

878. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:—

(a) how many Government tourist homes are there in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) what is the occupancy ratio of the tourist homes as also the break-up of the kind of occupants i.e. whether public or private for the year 1976-77?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) There is one tourist home with 24 beds at Port Blair built by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

(b) In 1976 the occupancy was 70 per cent of which about 40 per cent was by private parties.

Steps to Check Smuggling and Economic Offences

879. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for making a review of its anti-smuggling measures to evolve a new and effective strategy to check smuggling activities and other economic offences in the country;

(b) whether some of the smugglers have been released after the lifting of emergency and if so, their number, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to intercept the smugglers' vessels and not allow them to indulge in anti-social activities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Anti-smuggling measures of the Government are under constant review depending upon the trends in smuggling, changes in the *modus operandi* adopted by the smugglers and other economic offenders and shift in the vulnerability of the areas susceptible to their activities.

(b) Yes Sir, 2185 smugglers including foreign exchange racketeers were released after the lifting of Emergency till 4th June, 1977 and their number State-wise is furnished in the statement enclosed.

(c) Patrolling of the vulnerable areas on the sea coast to intercept smugglers vessels by the Customs crafts has been intensified. A wireless communication system has also been set up on the west coast and Tamil Nadu coast to enable quick communication between the preventive agencies and help interception of smugglers vessels. More numbers of Customs patrol craft are being put into service and the system of collection of intelligence is being strengthened.

Statement

State-wise break-up of the persons released is as under

S. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of persons released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37
2.	Assam	62
3.	Bihar	104
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2
5.	Delhi	47
6.	Goa, Daman & Diu	34
7.	Gujarat	202
8.	Haryana	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10
10.	Karnataka	99
11.	Kerala	102
12.	Madhya Pradesh	13
13.	Maharashtra	622
14.	Manipur	11
15.	Meghalaya	5
16.	Orissa	3
17.	Pondicherry	4
18.	Punjab	69
19.	Rajasthan	13
20.	Tripura	43
21.	Tamil Nadu	261
22.	Uttar Pradesh	151
23.	West Bengal	125
24.	Central Government	164
	TOTAL	2185