

to be imported from New Zealand as per recent understanding between the two countries ?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) :** During his visit to India in March, 1986 Mr. Mike Moore, the New Zealand Minister for Overseas Trade & Marketing proposed to export to India items like wool, newsprint, wood pulp sheep hides and skins. India has been importing some of these items from New Zealand.

#### **Weekly holiday in Banks**

7842. **SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the weekly holiday is being observed by the various branches of banks in Delhi coinciding with the nearby market closed day ;

(b) whether this practice is also being followed in other Metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras ;

(c) if so, what was the background for introducing this system ;

(d) whether any difficulty has been pointed out by the customers or the bank employees regarding odd holidays in the banks ; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :** (a) Yes, Sir, weekly holiday is being observed by most of the branches in Delhi coinciding with the nearby market closed day.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are generally closed on Sundays. However, a few branches located in the residential areas in the city of Madras observe holidays on week days and keep open on Sundays to suit mainly the local resident-customer's convenience.

(c) The decision to observe weekly off-days coinciding with market closing days by the banks branches located in different areas of Delhi had been taken as a security measure in the wake, of increasing cases of dacoities on several Delhi based banks branches.

(d) & (e). Reserve Bank of India has reported that some of the customers have pointed out that the practice of observance of different weekly off-days by banks functioning in Delhi delays the realisation of cheques by a day or two. A Sub-Committee of the New Delhi Banker's Clearing House, studied the problem of delayed clearance of instruments resulting from observance of different weekly holidays by banks' branches in Delhi and New Delhi area and recommended certain procedural measures for minimisation of the delay. RBI is taking necessary steps to implement the recommendations of the Sub-Committee.

#### **Steps to curb illegal transactions in Gold Jewellery**

7843. **DR. B.L. SHAILESH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the steps which he propose to take to unearth black money and curb illegal transactions in the gold jewellery trade ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :** The Government is fully committed to combat the menace of black money and illegal transactions in the gold jewellery trade. All possible measures to unearth black money and to stop illegal transactions in the gold jewellery trade, including administrative, legislative and institutional, are being taken from time to time.

#### **Quality of sugar and rice issued by Fair Price Shops**

7.44. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANI-GRAHI :**

**SHRI R. M. BHOYE :**

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of sugar and rice have been increased