

have been caused by various factors including inappropriate policies and ineffective management of the economy by the previous Government.

(d) Government proposes to tackle the price situation by (i) increasing production and supplies; (ii) better supply and demand management; (iii) removing power, transport and other infra-structural bottlenecks; (iv) streamlining of distribution arrangements; and (v) stringent enforcement of existing laws to deal with anti-social elements such as hoarders and black-marketeers.

Rate of Inflation

1498. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the annual rate of inflation which was 20.8 percent during the week ended January 19, this year has gone up to 23.5 percent in the week ended February 16, 1980;

(b) if so, the reasons for this increase; and

(c) the measures adopted to remedy this growth of inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The inflationary pressures have been a continuation of the past trends resulting from various international and domestic factors including inappropriate policies and ineffective management of the economy by the previous Government. Some time will be necessary before the rise in prices is moderated. Measures adopted by the Government to tackle the price situation include: (i) increasing production and supplies; (ii) better supply and demand management; (iii) removing power, transport and other infra-structural bottle-necks; (iv) streamlining of distribution arrangements; and (v) effective enforcement of existing legislation.

Advance Plan allocation released to Government of West Bengal

1499. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount so far released to the Government of West Bengal for advance plan allocation for drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): on the recommendations of the Central teams and the High Level Committee on Relief, ceilings of expenditure, totalling Rs. 2767 crores, have been approved by the Central Government for various items of drought relief in West Bengal. The expenditure actually incurred by the State Government, over and above the margin money of Rs. 13.60 crores, is to be covered by such advance Plan assistance. The maximum amount of advance Plan assistance admissible to the State Government thus works out to Rs. 14.07 crores. This amount was to be released to the State Government in suitable instalments, depending upon the pace of expenditure reported by the State Government. No progress report on expenditure has, however, been received from the State Government so far. Nevertheless, a sum of Rs. 12 crores has been released to the State Government in order to ensure that the drought relief was not hampered for want of funds.

टाट और बोरियों पर निर्यात शुल्क

1500. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने टाट और बोरियों के निर्यात पर फिर से निर्यात शुल्क लगा दिया है और यदि हां, तो निर्यात शुल्क को कब समाप्त किया गया था; और

(ख) निर्यात शुल्क की समाप्ति के बाद से विदेशी मुद्रा में कितने मूल्य के टाट और बोरियों का निर्यात हुआ है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ पहाड़िया): (क) जी, हां। हेमियन कपड़े तथा धूलों (कालीन-स्तर से भिन्न) पर निर्यात-शुल्क 5 जून, 1975 से हटा लिया गया था; यह