

FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the purchase price of edible oils by the State Trading Corporation from the international market has doubled over the last one year (see 'Financial Express', New Delhi dated 9 April, 1985) ;

(b) if so, its impact on the country's edible oil import bill ; and

(c) the quantum proposed to be imported ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) During the financial year 1984-85, the prices of edible oils in the international market were at very high levels till June, 1984. There was a substantial drop in prices (by over US \$ 150 PMT) in July, 1984 and thereafter the prices remained more or less at the same level with a rise in November-December, 1984 and a fall in January-February, 1985.

(b) and (c) : The quantum of edible oils to be imported depends upon the availability of indigenous oils, likely demand of the edible oils, availability of foreign exchange and other related factors. The impact of international prices of edible oils on the import bill will depend on the quantum proposed to be imported.

Availability and Prices of Edible Oils

6342. **SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHNAIK** : Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite introduction of a scheme for sale and distribution of vanaspati and edible oils from 1 June, 1984 their prices continued to soar higher in the retail market and they are not easily available at Fair Prices Shops also ; and

(b) if so, details of this scheme and the steps taken in pursuance thereof and the results achieved so far, indicating the rise/fall in prices of various items during the period January, 1984 to date ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) : As a result of voluntary agreement, the retail prices of vanaspati were fixed. By and large the vanaspati industry is adhering to voluntary price discipline. The imported edible oil is allocated to States for Public Distribution System at a predetermined fixed price. This is supplied to the consumers through fair price shops at the retail prices fixed by the States. Generally the availability of vanaspati and imported edible oils is satisfactory. However, temporary local shortages cannot be ruled out. The State Governments have been asked to procure 30% of vanaspati from the local vanaspati units in their State for distribution under Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

High Rise Buildings in Delhi

6343. **SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE** : Will the Minister of **WORKS AND HOUSING** be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the High rise buildings in Delhi have serious architectural short-comings and also not fitted with fire protection system ;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been instituted to go into the matter ; and

(c) if not, how does the Government ensure safety to the occupants of these buildings ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) It is not true that most of the high rise buildings in Delhi have serious architectural shortcomings. These buildings are designed by quali-

fied reputed architects with proper licence as well as with the registration under Council of Architecture. Their building plans are also scrutinised under the building bye-law including from the point of view of fire protection measures. Delhi Urban Art Commission, constituted under an Act of Parliament, gives clearance from the architecture, aesthetic as well as urban from angles. Thereafter, such schemes are referred to the Fire Advisory Committee, constituted by the Lt. Governor of Delhi, Who make a detailed fire protection scrutiny of the building and clearance regarding fire safety from the Chief Fire Officer, Delhi, is also obtained.

Fitting of fire protection system in the buildings, as recommended by the Chief Fire, on the advice of Fire Advisory Committee, is the responsibility of the owner of the building (lessee). However, Occupancy certificate for such buildings are only issued when such systems are fitted and checked in the working condition. While giving occupancy certificate, clearance from Chief Fire Officer is obtained regarding workability and fitness of such fittings.

(b) and (c) : Fire Advisory Committee, constituted by the Lt. Governor of Delhi, is also going into the fire protection system provided in the buildings already constructed and occupied.

[English]

Prices of Commodities Recommended by A.P.C.

6344. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the commodities of which price, procurement and minimum support prices are recommended by Agricultural Prices Commission and the details thereof ;

(b) whether the commodities other than those of which prices are recommended by the Commission are proposed to be included for bringing stability in price trends in the country ; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends procurement and support prices for paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley, gram, tur, moong, urad, sugarcane, groundnut, soyabean, sunflowerseed, rapeseed and mustard, cotton, jute and tobacco. In addition, the Government have been fixing indicative prices for market intervention for potatoes and onions.

(b) and (c) : The commodities for which the Commission recommends procurement/support prices cover all the major crops. However, as per the Terms of Reference of the Commission, the Government can ask the Commission to examine the question of price policy for any other agricultural commodity.

Separate Channel for Education

6345. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission have proposed for a separate channel for education with the help of INSAT-II in space during the Seventh Plan period ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION