

(b) It is a fact that India is increasingly being used as a transit country for opiates and cannabis destined for other regions of the world.

(c) The field formations remain vigilant to curb such illicit activities. The preventive and intelligence machinery has been geared up and appropriate enforcement measures are taken in co-ordination with the Central and State Government authorities concerned. A liberalised reward scheme has been announced by the Government under which the Central and State enforcement officers and their informers are entitled to reward for drug seizures. The drug offenders are proceeded against and punished under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. The States and Union Territories have been advised to mount special vigil especially in schools, colleges and universities.

Nationalisation of Scindia Steam Navigation Company

681. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are considering nationalisation of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present financial position of the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Ltd. (SCICI) has reported that as on 30th June, 1987, the aggregate carried forward losses of Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., were Rs.93.02 crores as against the equity of Rs. 18.95 crores.

Repayment of Overdrafts by States

682. SHRI MANIK SANYAL:
SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:
SHRIMATI GEETHA
MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether some of the State Chief Ministers demanded extension of the time limit for repayment of overdrafts:

(b) if so, whether this matter was discussed with them;

(c) if so, when such discussion took place; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Some State Governments have moved the Government of India to increase the time allowed for clearing overdrafts with the Reserve Bank of India from the present 7 days to at least 21 days. The matter is still under consideration.

(b) No specific discussion has been made with the State Governments in this regard.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Consumer Price Index

683. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA:
SHRI YASHWANTRAO
GADAKH PATIL:
SHRI V. VENKATESH: .

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the consumer price index of August 1987 to date and how does the same compare with those of the last five years;

(b) variation in the rate of inflation

month-wise and how does the same tally with those of the last five years; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to control the rate of inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The requisite information is given in the statement below.

(c) The specific measures taken by the

Government to keep the price rise under check include enhanced distribution of foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS); strengthening of the PDS with the opening of additional outlets; import of essential commodities like pulses, edible oils & sugar; strict economy in government expenditure; mopping up of excess liquidity in the economy by raising Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio; imposition of selective credit controls and intensive action against hoarders and profiteers. Prices are closely being monitored at various levels to facilitate prompt action.

STATEMENT

All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (Base 1960 = 100) over the last five years (August-December)

(a) Month	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983
August	736	672	618	586	549
September	745	676	619	589	554
October	750	685	625	592	558
November	755	692	630	595	561
December*	752	688	630	588	559

*Latest available

(b) Percentage variation in Consumer Price Index over the month during

Month	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983
August	+1.7	+0.6	+0.5	+0.2	+1.5
September	+1.2	+0.6	+0.2	+0.5	+0.9
October	+0.7	+1.3	+1.0	+0.5	+0.7
November	+0.7	+1.0	+0.8	+0.5	+0.5
December	-0.4	-0.6	No ch.	-1.2	-0.4

Balance of Trade during Seventh Plan

684. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adverse balance of trade is expected by the end of the Seventh Plan period;

(b) the targets fixed for imports and exports during the Seventh Plan period;