

(b) if so, the amount of dues and under what heads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b). As on 11th November, 1977, an amount of Rs. 4,92,67,669 was due to jute mills on account of export subsidy. Break-up of this amount is as under:—

(i)	Subsidy against exports effected directly by jute mills	Rs. 2,60,35,015
(ii)	Subsidy against exports effected through shippers	Rs. 2,32,32,654

This amount will be disbursed as and when all necessary information and documents are furnished by the parties concerned to the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Calcutta.

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

971. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
 SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA:
 SHRI SAMAR GUHA:
 SHRI DURGA CHAND:
 SHRI K. MALLANNA:
 DR. BALDEV PRAKASH:
 SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHERIEF:
 SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM:
 SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
 SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
 SHRI S. N. CHATURVEDI:
 SHRI JENA BAIRAGI:
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the continuous rise of prices of essential commodities; and

(b) the steps taken to bring down the price level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) During the past seven consecutive weeks, the all commodities wholesale price index has shown a continuous decline—the overall decline being to the extent of 2.5 per cent in these weeks. As compared to the terminal week of March, 1977, the index in the week ending November 5, 1977, was higher by only 1 per cent. However, there had been a rising tendency earlier in the prices which may mainly be attributed to the enormous difference in the rate of growth in money supply and the national income. In 1976-77, the money supply increased by 18 per cent as against an estimated increase of about 2 per cent in the national income. Although this year the rate of growth in money supply is lower than that of last year, the lagged impact of the increase in money supply last year continued to have its impact. There has also been significant shortfall in the production of a few essential commodities like rice, oilseeds, pulses and raw cotton. Shortfall in power supply also affected the production in some industries such as cement.

(b) To combat inflation and improve the availability of essential commodities, the important measures taken are: Minimising deficit financing, reducing non-developmental expenditure, continuation of restrictive credit policy, releases of more cereals through the public distribution system, releases of more non-levy sugar, imposition of export duty on tea, banning exports of vegetables, staggering and reducing exports of cement, substantial increase in the use of imported oil by the Vanaspati industry, sale of refined import-

ed rapeseed oil for direct consumption at Rs. 8.50 a kg. to begin with and subsequently at Rs. 7.50 a kg. and import of very substantial quantities of edible oils and raw cotton.

In order to have reductions in auction prices reflected in the retail prices of tea, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) and National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) were asked to increase their operations of selling loose tea. Their combined sales of loose tea amounted to over 1 lakh kg. in October, 1977 as compared to 2,000 kg. in July, 1977. They are selling tea in 85 cities in various parts of the country at a retail price of Rs. 16.50 a kg. As an incentive to growers, the support price of wheat, paddy, gram, raw cotton, groundnut and sunflowerseed have been raised. As a dehoarding measure, stock limits have been imposed on wholesalers and retailers dealing in pulses, edible oils and vanaspati. The maximum retail price of mustard oil has been fixed at Rs 10 a kg. since September 30, 1977 (the Order, related to stock limits and fixation of price of mustard oil have been challenged in courts and the decision of the Supreme Court is awaited). A broadbased plan is being finalised to enlarge and improve the public distribution system.

Raids conducted on Mills and Business Premises of Vanaspati Manufacturers

972 SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of raids conducted on the mills and business premises of leading vanaspati manufacturers in the country during 1977 so far;

(b) the nature of irregularities detected;

(c) the number of arrests made; and

(d) what action is proposed to be taken against them so that they may not indulge in such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) to (d). During 1977, the inspectors of the Vanaspati Directorate carried out 700 inspections of various vanaspati units. They drew 2500 samples out of which 2300 have been analysed. 72 samples did not conform to specifications. These cases are being examined for taking such appropriate action as may be necessary

Inspection and raids on the vanaspati units can also be taken up by State Government officials like food inspectors, and also by excise authorities. Details of these are not being reported to this Ministry.

Remittances by Indians from Abroad

973. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount remitted by the Indians from abroad from 1st April to September, 1977 and how does it compare with the corresponding figures of the previous two years;

(b) whether Government propose to offer any fresh incentives to attract more remittances, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) According to the records maintained by the Reserve Bank of India, the total amount remitted from abroad from 1st April to September, 1977, as well as during the corresponding period