

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री लक्ष्मी कान्त खन्ना) : (क) से (घ) : सरकार को बहुत से संवदनों, संघ (जिनमें अखिल भारतीय सराफा संघ भी शामिल है) और व्यक्तियों से धम्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं जिन में या तो स्वर्ण (निबंधन) अखिलियम को समाप्त करने अथवा उस में महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन करने का प्रस्ताव है ।

सरकार स्वर्ण निबंधन नीति की समीक्षा कर रही है, समीक्षा के परिणामों के आधार पर आवश्यक परिवर्तन किए जाएंगे ।

**Interest free loans to farmers by Nationalised banks**

4962. SHRI RUDRA SEN CHAUDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide interest free loans from nationalised banks to farmers and artisans of remote rural areas to help them to promote their industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Foreign Companies that have not diluted Foreign Equity Holdings**

4963. SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state which are the foreign companies operating in India that have not yet diluted their foreign equity holdings?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : A statement is showing the names of companies who are yet to dilute their non-resident interest in accordance with the directives issued by the Reserve Bank of India under Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT-1454 177]

**Position of Prices of Consumer and Essential Goods during January, February, 1978**

4964. SHRI SAMARGUHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any study of the latest position of price of consumer and essential goods ;

(b) if so, facts thereabout ; and

(c) the likely position of prices of these goods during the months of January February, 1978 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. A study of the trend in the prices of essential and mass consumption items has been made for the period between September 17, 1977 and December 3, 1977.

(b) During 11 weeks to December 3, 1977, the all commodities wholesale price index has fallen by 2.2%. There has been significant fall in the wholesale prices of a number of commodities during this period. The price of rice has fallen by 9.2%, onions by 22.2%, milk by 5.2%, tea by 28.5%, coffee by 5.4%, khandsari by 10.1%, gur by 12.1% and groundnut oil by 13.1%. Details are given in the attached statement.

(c) It is difficult to make a forecast about the price situation in the next two months. However, it may be indicated that overall price situation is likely to continue to be within control.

*Statement*

Percentage Variation in the Wholesale Price Index Numbers of Essential and Mass Consumption Items during the period week ending 17-9-1977 and week ending 3-12-1977.

Commodities	Percentage Variation
Rice	-9.2
Wheat	+5.6
Jowar	-2.5
Bajra	+16.1