

(ब) साधारणतः कच्चे माय की कीमत में गिरावट आने पर, उससे संबंध निर्मित उत्पाद की कीमतों में कमी आती है। उदाहरण के तौर पर, पिछले बर्ष में तिलहन की कीमतों में 15.5 प्रतिशत और बाज तेलों की कीमतों में 13 प्रतिशत की कमी हुई।

Earning of Extra Profits for Hindustan Lever Ltd. Through Dubious Methods

3339. **SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Hindustan Lever Limited had been earning extra profits by increasing the prices of its products through dubious methods;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 1973 the company reduced the commission of its distributors from 3 to 2 per cent and asked the distributors to add the reduced 1 per cent in the prices of its products on consumers; and

(c) whether as a result of this decision the retail prices went up automatically by one per cent and the company earned an extra profit of Rs. 1 crore?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Government do not keep a watch on the working of individual firms, except to the extent that contravention of rules and regulations may be involved.

(b) In view of (a) above, Government have no information one way or the other.

(c) A one percentage point reduction in the distributors' commission would result in an extra gross profit of Rs. 1 crore on a turn-over of Rs. 100 crores. However, the actual gross profit would depend on a number of factors. According to the bal-

ance sheets of M/s Hindustan Lever Limited, the value of their sales was Rs. 140.44 crores in 1972, Rs. 132.68 crores in 1973 and Rs. 145.13 crores in 1974. The profits before tax declined from Rs. 9.69 crores in 1972 to Rs. 9.23 crores in 1973 and marginally to Rs. 9.22 crores in 1974.

Indo Malaysian Trade Pact

3340. **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo Malaysia trade pact has been signed in New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Irregularities, Malpractices and Expenditure on Agri-Expo-77 Exhibition

3341. **DR. BHAGWAN DASS RATHOR:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total actual expenditure on Agri-Expo-1977, whether such huge expenditure in organising, was justified;

(b) whether there were major irregularities and malpractices in organising the Agri-Expo-1977; and

(c) the grounds for organising it and the nature and purpose wise details of the expenditure may be placed on the table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) The expenditure incurred by the

Trade Fair Authority of India for organising the Agri-Expo-1977 was about Rs. 75.44 lakhs, and was justified.

(b) No, Sir Nothing has come to the notice of Ministry of Commerce.

(c) The grounds for organising Agri-Expo-1977 were:—

- (i) Dissemination of information on the progress achieved since independence in the field of agriculture and allied products,
- (ii) Exploration of avenues for development of cooperation in the field of agriculture and industry
- (iii) Making Indian manufacturers aware of the rural demand for consumer and other goods

A statement indicating the expenditure incurred by the Trade Fair Authority of India is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

	Rs Lakhs
	<i>Preliminary Actual</i>
1 Construction works including Electrical works and Horticultural works	99 23 (Estimated)
2 Electricity and water charges	6 52 (Estimated)
3 Publicity expenses including a coloured film, fair literature and cultural programme	13 36
4 Krishi Darshan programme	1 54
5 Bullock Cart Programme	0 65
6 Animal Husbandry	0 50
7 Other Miscellaneous expenditure including project staff contingencies, public address system decoration charges etc	13 64 (Estimated)
TOTAL	75 44 lakhs

R.B.I. Decision on Remittances by Foreign Companies

3342 SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to block remittances by foreign companies whose proposals for the Indianisation of Share Capital under the provision of FERA have not been cleared yet,

(b) whether it is a fact that this ban will be made applicable only for some selected companies which are to be decided on merits;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether the remittances of any such companies are banned so far; and

(e) if so, the names and other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H M PATEL): (a) to (e). The remittances of dividends and profits by foreign companies have not been blocked. However, it has been decided to withhold the remittances of profits and dividends by FERA companies where the companies have not complied with the directives of the Reserve Bank regarding Indianisation or dilution of foreign equity, or have not taken effective steps in this regard. This policy is being applied uniformly and a statement containing a list of such companies where remittances have been withheld is attached. In the case of companies which have submitted concrete Indianisation or dilution proposals, remittances of profits/dividends are being allowed upto the calendar year 1975 or the company's accounting year 1975-76. Dividend/profit remittances from the calendar year 1976 or for the accounting year 1976-77 onwards will be withheld by the Reserve Bank till the Indianisation or dilution proposals are approved.