

(ख) क्या जित तरह झानू और प्वाच का निर्वाह, बन्द किया गया है उसी तरह हल्दी और जीरे का निर्वाह बन्द करने का विचार है; और

(ग) यदि हा, तो कब और यदि नहीं तो सके क्या कारण है ?

व्यक्तिगत तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण कुमार जोषल) (क) हल्दी और जीरे के बीच मूल्य अग्रैल, 1977 से निरन्तर बढ़ते गये और सितम्बर/अक्तूबर, 1977 में अधिकतम स्तर पर पहुंच गये। तथापि, इन दोनों वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में अक्तूबर/नवम्बर, 1977 से कमी हुई है। अक्तूबर, 1977 और फरवरी, 1978 के बीच हल्दी के बीच मूल्य सुचकांक में 27.7 प्रतिशत की कमी हुई। सितम्बर, 1977 और फरवरी, 1978 के बीच कलकत्ता और भागला में जीरे के बीच मूल्यों में लगभग 28.6 प्रतिशत की कमी हुई।

(ख) और (ग). हल्दी और जीरे दोनों के निर्वाह पर 4 जनवरी, 1978 से प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया है।

Scrutiny of Ghosh and Bose Industries

3433 DR VASANT KUMAR PAN-
DIT Will the Minister of FINANCE
be pleased to state

(a) whether the Reserve Bank scrutinised the Accounts of GBI Group (Ghosh and Bose Industries) with the Central Bank of India at Calcutta,

(b) if so, whether Government have found any discrepancy or irregularity in the borrowings and the assets of the Ghosh and Bose Industries

(c) for what purpose was the loan given by the Central Bank of India

and for what purpose was it actually used and what action Government have taken in the above matter; and

(d) has the Government fixed the responsibility on any officer who conducted this irregular transaction?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H M PATEL): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that the Central Bank of India had deputed an officer from its Head Office to look into the alleged irregularities in the conduct of accounts of the GBI Group at its Calcutta Branch Reserve Bank of India has also scrutinised these accounts. The investigations have revealed that the party has been cheating the bank by obtaining advances against fictitious invoices. Central Bank of India has already filed a criminal complaint against the party before the Calcutta Police and it is understood that the partners of the group have been arrested as a result thereof. The bank has also decided to initiate Civil proceedings against the party.

(d) Central Bank of India is also investigating the lapses on the part of the staff and appropriate action is expected to be taken by the bank against the staff involved after the investigations are over.

Distribution of Essential Commodities Through Cooperatives

3434 SHRI ABDUL AHED VAKIL Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state

(a) whether Government will introduce distribution of essential commodities through cooperatives;

(b) if so, what are the items to be taken up, and

(c) what are the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOEL). (a) The scheme for increased production-cum-distribution of essential commodities circulated recently to the State Governments for their views and recommendations emphasises the need for devising effective systems of distribution and expansion of the co-operative network both in the urban and rural areas for distribution of essential commodities

(b) and (c) The items to be covered and the main features of the scheme are given in the attached statement

Statement

1 The scheme aims at increasing the production of essential mass consumption goods and to make available the increased production equitably and efficiently especially to the weaker sections and working population. The basic objective of the new approach is to create a permanent system in place of short term palliatives and ad-hoc approaches of the past. The proposed system seeks to create an effective instrument for removing imbalances of the past and for extending the distribution system to the rural areas as well. It is also intended to expand the commodity coverage of the distribution system to include critical wage-goods and also take effective action for extensive expansion of the network of fair price shops to cover far-flung areas, throughout the country.

2 The tasks envisaged and the action plans suggested emphasise the need for stepping up production on a priority basis of commodities in short supply, for which both short and long term measures have to be taken. In the formulation of the scheme financial constraints have been taken into account and the approach is to make the optimum use of the existing

infra-structural facilities and plan outlays. The more important features of the new policy for strengthening of the public distribution system cover the following—

- Effective distribution of essential commodities already covered and addition of new commodities to the distribution system. The scheme envisages initial coverage of cereals sugar, kerosene cloth vegetable oils and vanaspati, and selected manufactured items of mass consumption.
- In respect of selected manufactured items of mass consumption, such as toilet and washing soaps salt matches, tea, exercise-books common drugs and medicines the concerned administrative Ministries of the Government in consultation with the State Governments have to take up the responsibility of monitoring production, availability and retail prices. The Ministries concerned should be responsible for making assessment of overall requirements and in particular the needs of the vulnerable segments of population and for taking measures to meet them.
- bufferstocking of cereals pulses, edible oils or oilseeds cotton etc and imports of required essential articles,
- bringing about rationality in the area of storage, transport and distribution costs,
- removal of imbalances in the allocation of commodities between urban and rural areas and their prices,
- optimum use will be made of the existing infrastructural facilities in the private and public sectors. The emphasis would be on devising effective systems of distribution and expansion