

vegetable oils, pulses, raw cotton and other textile fibres etc. which are in short supply, and to augment domestic availability through imports to meet critical shortages which emerged in certain vital items like aluminium, Cement, coking coal etc.

Procurement of Pulses and Edible Oils

962. SHRI K. MALLANNA :
SHRI S. S. SOMANI :
SHRI D. B. PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to procure as part of the public distribution system with buffer stocks of pulses;

(b) whether some procurement had also been done in edible oils ;

(c) what are the details regarding the import of edible oils through private parties and the State Trading Corporation; and

(d) what arrangements have been made regarding the distribution of pulses, edible oils and vanaspati to make them easily available to the common people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL):

(a) Regarding pulses, import possibilities are negligible. In a situation of tight supply position, buffer stocking out of internal supplies would not be possible, and it would further push up the prices. In view of this, NAFED and NCCF have been asked to enter the market in a discreet way and build up some stocks of pulses as part of their commercial operations. Between them, they have built a stock of about 42,000 tonnes of rabi pulses.

(b) Government have arranged for the import of requisite quantities of edible oils to bridge the gap between supply and demand. NAFED has on Government account, built up a stock of about 19,000 tonnes of groundnut oil from out of internal procurement.

(c) Import of edible oils upto 3-7-1978 at Bombay port on private trader's account during the oil year was 4,32,077

tonnes. STC had imported 5,67,752 tonnes of oils during 1977-78.

(d) Distribution of refined rapeseed oil at a retail price of Rs. 7/- per kg. through licensed fair price shops is already under implementation. Vanaspati is freely available at fair prices. In regard to pulses, the stocks built up by NAFED and NCCF are distributed through co-operatives and State Civil Supplies Corporations.

Memorandum from Goldsmiths Association

963. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of Goldsmiths Association has submitted memorandum to Government suggesting that Gold should be made available to the goldsmiths and to the common people at 'proper price' and smuggling in gold should be brought down by selling gold ;

(b) whether the Goldsmiths Sangh has also opposed the sale of gold by tenders system and demanded that the gold should be sold to goldsmiths and to the people through the creation of suitable machinery; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) . Yes, Sir.

(c) The main demand of the Goldsmiths' Associations is that gold should be sold to them at fixed price from various centres in the country. The following steps have been taken by the Government to meet the demand of the goldsmiths.

(i) By an Order issued by the Gold Control Administration, dated 2-6-78, a ban has been imposed on inter-deal sales in R.B.I. gold. Dealers who purchase gold in R.B.I. auctions can sell such gold only to certified goldsmiths upto 100 grammes at a time or convert such gold themselves into ornaments for sale.

(ii) Groups of goldsmiths not exceeding five in number have been permitted to submit combined bids in the fortnightly auctions conducted by the R.B.I.

(iii) Co-operative Societies of goldsmiths holding valid licences under the Gold Control Act have been made eligible to participate in the auction.

(iv) A scheme for the sale of gold in small quantities to goldsmiths at fixed prices in between the R. B. I. auctions from selected centres in the country, is under the consideration of the Government,