

Consumer Price Index

759. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state as to what is the consumer price index at present compared to that during the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): The All India Industrial Workers' Consumer Price Index (1980=100) stood at 339 for May 1979 (the latest available) as against 323 for May 1978 and 318 for May 1977.

बीहू द्वारा भारत में व्यापार नेले के आयोजन की कवित कार्यवाही

760 श्री हुकम चन्ध कच्छवाल : क्या बाहिरिय, नागरिक पुलिस तथा सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिनांक 15 मई, 1979 के हिन्दुस्तान में प्रकाशित इस आचार्य का समाचार कहाँ तक सही है कि चीन भारत में एक व्यापार नेले का आयोजन करना चाहता है, और

(ख) क्या सरकार ने इन सम्बन्ध में कोई पहल की है ?

बाहिरिय, नागरिक पुलिस तथा सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण कुमार शोबल) : (क) तथा (ख) सरकार ने इस समाचार को देखा है, लेकिन चीन के जनवादी गणराज्य से इस बारे में कोई सुनाव नहीं मिला है।

Consignment Bound for Tehran

761. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs Collectorate at Bombay have discovered that a consignment bound for Tehran contained bricks and not socks as had been declared by the firm concerned;

(b) if so, facts thereof; and

(c) action taken or proposed to be taken against the concerned exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. According to reports received by Government, M/s. Juneja Exports, New Delhi, presented seven shipping bills covering 14,264 packages for export declaring the goods as cotton socks valued at about Rs. 2.36 crores and the consignees' name as M/s Imperial Iran'an Army, Teheran. On examination, most of the

packages were found to contain cotton rags and bricks. The goods were seized; and the case has been handed over to C.B.I. for thorough investigations.

Alleged arrest of Foreign Nationals in Ahmedabad

762. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four foreign nationals have been arrested in Ahmedabad for alleged cheating of a bank by cashing stolen travellers cheques; and

(b) if so, the details regarding these foreign nationals and whether Indian Government have gathered information regarding their antecedents from the countries to which they belong?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) & (b). The Ahmedabad Police had arrested Mr. Sluval Bernerdo Gucci, Mr. Phillipovic Sreto, Mr. Edward Miyamoto and Miss Kiyoko Mochizuki, all foreign nationals at Ahmedabad on allegations of forgery and cheating of certain branches of commercial banks in Ahmedabad by encasing stolen/lost foreign travellers cheques, on the basis of forged passports. On a request received from the State Police, these cases have since been taken over by Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation. The antecedents of the four foreign nationals are under verification.

Impact of Price Rise of Raw Material on Production of Industrial Goods

763. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the price rise of all commodities in general and raw materials in particular has adversely affected the production of industrial goods and consequently the market prices of industrial goods have shot up very high; and

(b) what steps have Government taken or propose to take to tackle this problem effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) & (b). Between March 31 and the June 23, 1979 the Index of wholesale prices (1970-71=100) has risen by 5.9 per cent. While the index for raw-materials (i.e., primary non-food articles and minerals) has increased by 4.8

per cent that for manufactured products shows a rise of 5.9 per cent. However, if the food products group (which includes edible oils and sugar, khandari and gur) is eliminated, the price rise in manufactured goods would be only 4.0 per cent.

It will thus be seen that higher prices of raw materials have not resulted in any undue increase in the prices of finished products, nor should they have exerted any adverse influence on industrial production. Industrial output has been affected to a certain extent by shortage of coal and electricity and bottle necks in rail transport. These are being tackled and, with improvement in these sectors industrial production should do better. In the meantime, Government has been undertaking sizable imports of critical items like iron and steel, cement, soda ash and rubber to relieve shortages.

Guidelines regarding cash in hand by a company

764. SHRI S S DAS: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules and guidelines, under the Income-tax Act or Company Law as to how much "cash in hand" a company can keep; and

(b) what is the system to check that the so called cash in hand, is actually in possession of the company and not used for illegal purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQARULLAH): (a) Under the Income-tax Act or Company Law, there are no rules or guidelines as to how much "cash in hand" a company can keep.

(b) Under the Income-tax Act, 1961, and the Company Law, there is no system to check that the so called cash in hand is actually in the possession of the company at any given point of time. The only exceptions to this under the Income-tax Act are when search and seizure or survey operations are carried on in the case of a company under section 139/139A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 when actual cash balance could be taken and tallied with the position reflected in the books of accounts. In case of any difference in the cash balance as per the books of accounts and the cash balance found on actual tally necessary enquiries and investigations are made to find out how the difference is accounted for. Under Company Law, the only check on cash balance is as per the established auditing practice at the time of audit when cash is physically verified by the auditors.

Assets of Indians and Companies seized by Pakistan

765. SHRI KIRTI BIKRAM DEB BURMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the Indian Nationals/Companies whose assets were seized by Government of Pakistan during Indo-Pak conflict of 1965 as "enemy property" ad hoc grant of 25 per cent of the value of verified claims has so far been paid;

(b) the total amount of such grants paid so far; and

(c) in how many cases the claims have not so far been verified and the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) So far payments have been made in respect of, approximately, 10% of the claim cases of Indian nationals/companies whose assets in Pakistan were seized by the Government of Pakistan during Indo-Pak conflict, 1965.

(b) The total amount of ex-gratia grants paid so far is Rs. 23 80 crores.

(c) The number of claim cases pending verification are 26475. For computing the verification of claims, location of property, area of the property, the year of construction of the building, nature of forest, bank balances etc. are taken into consideration. Hence the verification of claims is a complicated and time consuming process. However, all out efforts are being made to verify claim cases, expeditiously.

Dagli Committee report on control and subsidies

766. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vadilal Dagli Committee on control and subsidies have submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, what are the important findings and recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) details of action/decision by Government on the report; and

(d) the names of the Ministries involved in follow-up action and their reaction to the recommendations made by the committee?