

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities during the last Fifteen Months.

942. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) what are the month-end prices of essential commodities during the last fifteen months in important towns in each State ; and

(b) in view of the rising trend of the prices, what measures have Government taken to check this rise in prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) The wholesale price indices for various commodities are based on prices at a large number of centres and as such would reflect the overall price situation in the country. The statement indicating the monthly wholesale price indices for selected essential commodities during the last 15 months is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4617/79.]

(b) Government has already taken a number of measures to curb inflationary tendencies. Additional measures would be taken as and when necessary. Some of the important measures taken are briefly indicated below:—

(i) Instructions have been issued to various Central Government Departments to exercise utmost economic discipline and reduce Government expenditure.

(ii) State Governments have been requested to adhere to authorised overdraft limits and to restrict non-plan expenditure.

(iii) An Ordinance has been promulgated to postpone by one year repayment of instalment of compulsory deposit falling due on July 6, 1979.

(iv) Reserve Bank of India has tightened bank credit against sensitive commodities namely sugar, oilseeds, edible oils and pulses. Reserve Bank of India has advised commercial banks to keep a strict vigilance on advances against such commodities in order to check any tendency to utilise bank finance for hoarding.

(v) The scheme of monthly releases of sugar by Government was re-in-

roduced with effect from June 5, 1979 with a view to maintaining the prices of sugar at reasonable level. From July 1, 1979, restrictions on weekly sale and despatches of sugar have been reimposed.

(vi) The ex-factory prices for printing paper and cream laid or wove paper have been fixed at Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 3,785 per Metric Tonne respectively. Under the Paper (Control) Order, 1979, the Central Government has empowered itself to direct disposal of stock and sale of white printing paper and cream laid or wove paper.

(vii) Although the procurement prices of rice and wheat were increased during 1978-79 (Kharif) and 1979-80 (Rabi) marketing seasons respectively, the Central issue prices for foodgrain for the public distribution system have not been increased so as to hold the price line. The demands of the State Governments for allocation of wheat and rice are being met in full. State Governments have been requested to strengthen their public distribution system with a view to making foodgrains available to the vulnerable sections of population at reasonable prices.

(viii) State Trading Corporation has started open market intervention in edible oils by selling imported oil. STC continues to meet the requirements of the vanaspati industry and also of the State Governments in respect of imported rapeseed oil.

(ix) Efforts are being made to improve the movement of goods by rail. There has been considerable improvement in the movement of foodgrains to North Eastern States. During the past 20 days of June, 1979, 51,000 tonnes of foodgrains have been received in North-Eastern States.

(x) Import of essential commodities like cement, edible oils, pulses and soda ash, in short supply, is being continued.

(xi) State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to strictly enforce the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, Essential Commodities Act, Price Display

Orders and similar other enactments. They have also been asked to keep a close and constant watch on the price trends and to curb unwarranted increase in the prices of various essential commodities.

(xii) The Production-cum-Distribution Scheme has been launched from July 1, 1979, to cover larger population and more articles of daily necessity. The Scheme is expected to be in full gear by the end of the year.

(xiii) Special efforts are being made to increase the production of oil-seeds and pulses.

Seizure of Gold and Gold Ornaments in Sahebganj Town

943. SHRI K. A. RAJAN : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Excise Official had seized gold and gold ornaments from a shop and residence of a gold dealer of Sahebganj town in Deoria district in October, 1977 ;

(b) if so, the full details ;

(c) whether it is a fact that these items were kept in Government treasury at Gorakhpur ;

(d) if so, whether the contents are missing from the packets ; and

(e) if so, the action being taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL) : (a) to (d). A quantity of 1487 gms. of primary gold and gold ornaments valued at about Rs. 80,500/- was seized from the residential and business premises of Sh. Gopi Krishna son of Shri Bhimraj of Mohalla Sahebganj, Padrauna, District Deoria by the Central Excise officers on 7-10-77. These items were kept in two sealed packets and deposited with the local treasury at Gorakhpur.

The case registered under the Gold (Control) Act in this regard was adjudicated on 21-7-78 resulting in imposition of personal penalty of Rs. 5000/- and ordering release of gold on payment of a redemption fine of Rs. 10,000/-. The party paid the fine and penalty on 4-5-79 and at the stage of release of the gold when the relevant packets were opened

it was found that the packets contained iron nuts and bolts in place of gold.

(e) The case is being investigated by Central Bureau of Investigation, Lucknow and the police. Two Inspectors of Central Excise involved have been placed under suspension.

उन वस्तुओं के नाम जिन में आयात व निर्यात पर सरकारी उपक्रमों का एकाधिकार है

944. श्री राम विलास पासवान : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन वस्तुओं के नाम क्या क्या हैं जिनके आयात और निर्यात पर, उनके मंत्रालय के अधीन, सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों का एकाधिकार है ;

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रतिवस्तु तथा प्रति उद्यम के हिसाब से उन पर कमीशन किस दर से लगाई गई है और कुल कमीशन कितनी है ;

(ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान इन (केनेलाइज्ड) वस्तुओं के प्रति वस्तु के हिसाब से आयात और निर्यात के आंकड़े क्या हैं ; और इन में (प्रति वस्तु) तथा (प्रति उद्यम) के अनुसार आयात और निर्यात में क्या अनुपात रहा है ; और

(घ) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान (उपक्रम-वार) अर्जित किये गये कुल लाभ पर लगाये जाने वाली कमीशन की प्रतिशतता क्या थी ?

वाणिज्य, नागरिक पूति तथा सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आरिफ बेग) :

(क) एक विवरण संलग्न है ।

(ख) से घ). जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और यथा समय सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

विवरण

(क) उन वस्तुओं की सूची जिनके आयात व निर्यात पर वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों का एकाधिकार है :—

1) वे मर्दे जिनका निर्यात मार्गीकृत है

1. सुखाई हुई मछली, जिन में फ्रान शाकफिन फिस माव बीच डि मेरातथा बाम्बे डक्स तथा अन्य सुखाई हुई शल मछली शामिल नहीं है ।

2. चमड़ा, लाख दाना, बटनलाख, गार्नेटलाख तथा लाख की अन्य किस्में, जिसमें भाग 1 अनुसूची 1 में उल्लिखित किस्में शामिल नहीं हैं ।

3. अरंडी का तेल ।

4. सीरा ।

5. तेल रहित मूंगफली की खली (निस्सारण)।