

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Potatoes . . . . .	9269	18.00	0.19%
7.	Sugar . . . . .	5858	737.00	12.50%
8.	HPS Groundnuts . . . . .	6387	10.30	0.16%

\*Figure relates to 1976.

### Steep Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities.

175. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the reasons for steep rise in the prices of essential commodities throughout the country during the last one year; and

(b) its impact on the country's economy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The sharp increase in prices of some essential commodities during the past one year could be attributed to continuation of inflationary situation, seasonal factors, shortfall in kharif production, increase in procurement/support prices of some kharif crops, increase in input costs and other factors.

(b) The price rise has affected various sectors of the economy. It has particularly affected adversely the common people.

### Payment of Income-tax by Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh

176. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh has not paid income tax for several years;

(b) whether it was granted exemption from payment of taxes; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the same

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) The Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh has been assessed to income-tax upto the assessment year 1976-77. The Income-tax assessed is, however, outstanding as the assessments have been challenged in appeals which are pending before the various appellate authorities.

(b) @ (c). The Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh is taxed under the Status of 'Body of Individuals'. Its income from Gurudakshina received from members has been held to be not taxable on the principle of mutuality. Its other income from house property, interest on bank deposits, Misc. receipts etc. is being taxed.

### Quota Reserved for Scheduled Castes in I.T.D.C. Hotels

177. SHRI DHARAM DASS SHASTRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota reserved for Scheduled Castes in grades 1, 2 and 3 posts in the India Tourism Development Corporation hotels has not been completed;

(b) when the reserved quota is likely to be completed; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?