

figures for loans extended for purchase of bullock carts, bullocks or for individual loans below Rs. 10,000. However, particulars of term-loans

disbursed by the State Bank of India for purchase of plough animals for the years 1976-77 and 1978-79 are available and are given below:

Year	All India		Rs. in lakhs Maharashtra	
	No. of Accounts	Amount disbursed Rs.	No. of Accounts	Amount disbursed Rs.
1976-77	10,371	188.94	656	10.61
1978-79	28,198	519.09	1,415	42.30

(c) Does not arise.

Rise in the Prices of Essential Commodities

567. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK;
SHRI EDUARDO FALIERO;
SHRI RAMAVATAR
SHASTRI:
SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV;
PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

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

(a) whether there has been a sharp rise in the prices of essential commodities in the past one year;

(b) whether the rise in prices of certain commodities like sugar, kerosene, diesel and edible oils had been particularly sharp in the past few months;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this unprecedented rise in prices; and

(d) what steps have been taken to arrest the soaring prices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The all commodities wholesale price index in February, 1980 was 23.3 per cent higher over February, 1979. The wholesale price indices of several essential commodities have gone up substantially over the year.

(b) Between November, 1979 and February, 1980 the wholesale price indices of kerosene, high speed diesel and low speed diesel remained steady, whilst the indices for sugar moved up by 28.4 per cent and that of edible oils by 14 per cent.

(c) Apart from the continuation of the general inflationary situation, the increase in the prices of some essential commodities during the past 3 months is due to teething troubles involved in the re-introduction of dual pricing in sugar, movement constraints, likely fall in the production of some agricultural commodities including oilseeds and seasonal factors.

(d) Efforts are being made to overcome infra-structural constraints and step up the movement of essential commodities and streamline their distribution. Efforts are also being made to increase their production and keep bank credit under check. The exports of meat have been banned. State Governments have been asked to enforce vigorously the Essential Commodities Act and similar enactments.

Target for export of Indian goods

568. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target fixed for export of Indian goods in the current year;

(b) whether the target is likely to be achieved; and