

30 of the Gold (Control) Act, 1968, which requires every licensed gold dealer to stamp every piece of article or ornament certifying the purity of the gold and rule 13 of the Gold Control (Forms, Fees and Miscellaneous Matters) Rules, 1968 do not apply to certified goldsmiths.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to exempt any class of licensed dealers from the above mentioned provisions.

Central Control Room to Monitor Prices of Commodities

779. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central control room is being established by the Union Government to monitor the prices of certain commodities; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the move of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir. A Central Control Room is functioning from the end of April, 1980.

(b) The Central Control Room collects data on the availability and price trends for select commodities like wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils, kerosene, diesel, salt and soft coke, and helps consolidate the data for monitoring. It also liaises with the State Governments and the concerned administrative ministries responsible for taking appropriate action regarding availability and prices.

Slash in Quota of Essential Commodities for West Bengal

780. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota allotted to the West Bengal Government in res-

pect of sugar, diesel, cement, kerosene has been slashed since January, 1980 causing widespread hardship to the people of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the concerned Departments and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Bringing of more Weaker Sections within Credit Plan of Nationalised Banks

781. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of Government to bring more weaker sections within the credit plan of the nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, what are the schemes therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). All weaker sections of the community are already within the ambit of public sector banks' lending operations. The banks have, however, been advised to raise the proportion of priority sector credit to their aggregate credit to the level of 40 per cent by 1985 and to ensure that a significant proportion of such enlarged credit flows to the beneficiaries of the 20-Point Programme. To achieve this objective the banks are expected to draw up specific schemes suited to the local requirements in each district and directed towards the target groups and include them in the District Credit Plans for joint implementation.