

misfeasance, embezzlement, theft, misappropriation of funds, conversion of property, cheating, shortages, irregularities, etc. According to information compiled by Reserve Bank of India, the total number of cases of bank frauds and the amount involved therein during the years 1978 and 1979 in the 14 nationalised banks (nationalised in 1969) is as given below:—

Total no. of cases		Amount involved
1978	1072	Rs. 619 lakhs approx.
1979	1031	Rs. 784 lakhs approx.

The amounts involved in the frauds do not necessarily represent loss to the banks. However, the total amounts involved in these frauds work out to 21.41 per cent and 39.07 per cent of the total profit (after tax) for the years 1978 and 1979 respectively.

(d) and (e). All the nationalised banks have their own books of instructions indicating the safeguards to be followed for prevention of frauds. Wherever a fraud is detected, the bank concerned immediately takes up the investigation departmentally or hands over the case to the local police or to the C.B.I. depending on the nature and magnitude of the fraud as well as the persons involved in the fraud. Government have issued certain guidelines indicating the types of cases that can be handled departmentally, the types of cases that should be handed over to the local police and the types of cases that should be handed over to the C.B.I. Wherever criminal acts are involved, banks report the matter to the local police or to the C.B.I.

There is no insurance covering all frauds, as such. Most of the nationalised banks however take 'Banks Indemnity Policy' or 'Fidelity Guarantee Policy' covering negligence on the part

of the staff and forgery. Banks also invariably take an insurance policy against loss of cash through theft, dacoity, etc. In accordance with the banking practices, when there is forgery, the true owner has protection and can claim reimbursement of loss if any sustained by him. Reserve Bank of India, has also issued instructions that banks should consider meeting the claim of the customer immediately, where fraud or irregularity has been committed by the staff.

Rise in the Prices of Essential Commodities

4835. SHRI R. K. MHALGI:

SHRI AMAR ROY
PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of all essential commodities including cement, steel and sugar have increased since the announcement of budget 1980-81;

(b) if so, what is the actual rise in the prices of these commodities; and

(c) what were the prices of these commodities on January, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHKULA): (a) Since the presentation of the Union Budget 1980-81, there has been a mixed trend in the wholesale price indices of essential commodities. The wholesale price indices for some commodities have gone up, for some commodities the indices have remained steady and for a few commodities the indices have softened. Since the presentation of the Budget the wholesale price index for cement has remained steady, whilst the indices for steel and sugar have gone up. The retail price of levy sugar supplied through the fair price shops, however, has remained unchanged.

(b) and (c). The wholesale price indices for sugar, cement and the subgroup of iron, steel and ferro alloys in

January, 1980 and the weeks ending 14-6-1980 and 28-6-1980 are indicated in the statement.

Statement

Wholesale Price Index of Sugar, Cement and Iron, Steel and Ferro-alloys subgroup during January, 1980 and weeks ending June 14, 1980 and June 28, 1980.

(Base 1970-71-10 0)

Commodity/ Commodity sub-group	Wholesale Price Index		
	January, 1980 (monthly average)	Week ending 14-6-80	Week ending 28-6-80
Sugar	192.2	219.6	223.9
Cement	23.1	233.4	233.4
Iron, Steel and Ferro alloys (sub- group)	261.7	263.0	265.3

Kerala Government proposals for development of Tourist Spots during Sixth Plan

4836. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has submitted any proposals for development of tourist spots in the State during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre have approved these proposals; and

(d) what financial assistance is expected to be given to the State for implementing these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (d). The Tourism Plan is being reviewed with a view to gearing up facilities to meet a two-fold increase in the next

five years. Among the measures contemplated to achieve this objective are (i) identification and development of travel circuits and (ii) provision of adequate infrastructural facilities at the centres falling in these travel circuits. For this purpose discussions were held with the State Tourist officials, and details are being worked out by the Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala. Their proposals are awaited.

Raid Conducted at the residence of a Contractor in Bangalore (Karnataka)

4837. SHR K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a raid was conducted at the residence of a Contractor in Bangalore (Karnataka) and Rs. 35 lakhs seized as unaccounted cash;

(b) whether he made his pile in the Saravathy Hydroelectric and other projects and had income-tax arrears amounting to Rs. 25 to 30 lakhs;

(c) whether he took up a project in Bihar a couple of years ago, but was later allegedly blacklisted by that State Government;

(d) whether his son has also in his possession a number of houses and land, if so, whether there are some income-tax arrears outstanding against him; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir. The Income-tax Department conducted raids on 28-5-1980 to 30-5-1980 at the business and residential premises of Shri M. S. Ramaiah, a Contractor of Karnataka. In the course of the raid, cash of Rs. 33,98,550/- was seized from Shri Ramaiah's residence and Rs. 1,40,075/- was seized from the residence of Shri G S. Rama Rao.