

Another recommendation of the Group regarding banning of prize chit business has also been given effect to by enactment of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978 which has come into force with effect from 12th December, 1978. The Act is to be administered by the State Governments who have been invested with the power to frame rules thereunder in consultation with the Reserve Bank.

### Imported Copper

1415. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that off-take of imported copper has been very poor during the last few months; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. On the whole, the off-take of imported Copper has been normal during the last few months.

(b) Does not arise.

### Stock of Imported Edible Oils with STC

1416. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is presently stock of imported edible oils with STC and since which time STC stopped supplying oil to private traders for sale;

(b) is it true that STC is again going to supply oil to such traders, if so, on what terms and from when; and

(c) what factors have led to change in STC policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Stock

of imported edible oils as on 7-6-1980 is 2.91 lakhs tonnes. Sale of edible oils to private traders has been stopped since 9.1.1980.

(b) No resumption of sale of imported edible oils by STC to the private traders is presently envisaged. However, the edible oil situation in the country is kept under constant watch by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

### Representation by Retired Officers of Military Accounts Department

1417. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received, in the first week of May, 1980, any representation addressed to the Prime Minister from Shri S. A. Kulkarni and others, retired officials of the Defence Military Accounts Department, PUNE (Maharashtra) stating their grievances and demands;

(b) if so, what are their demands;

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No such representation seems to have been received in Prime Minister's Office. Representation when received will be attended to.

(b) and (c). Do not arise at this stage.

### Number of Employees in Indian Overseas Bank

1418. SHRI CHANDRA PAL SHAILANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total number of employees category-wise and region-wise in Indian Overseas Bank;

(b) the number out of them belonging to SC/ST Communities;