

Directive to State Governments to check Price Rise

3624. SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any directive to the State Governments to check the price rise;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) how many States have taken action in this regard; and

(d) to what extent these measures have checked the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (d). Communications have been issued from time to time in the light of emerging trends to State Governments to check price rise. These relate to vigorous enforcement of existing enactments against hoarders, black-marketeers and other antisocial elements and orders under Essential Commodities Act, streamlining of the public distribution system and proper monitoring of the availabilities, prices and distribution of essential commodities.

As a result of the anti-inflationary measures taken by the Government, the monthly rate of inflation has fallen to 0.9 per cent in the quarter August—October 1980 from 3.2 per cent in the quarter May—July 1980. The Index has shown a decline during the four weeks ended November 22, 1980.

Sale of Jewels of Ex-Maharaja of Alwar

3625. SHRI K. A. SWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale sales of historically important jewels by the family of the ex-Maharaja of Alwar; and

(b) if so, the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) as a result of the information received that Swai Tej Singh, Ex-Maharaja of Alwar, was selling his historically important jewels, searches were conducted by the Income-tax Department at the residential premises of Swai Tej Singh and members of his family viz. M. K. Yashwant Singh, M. K. Pratap Kumari, Smt. Bhanu Kumari, at Delhi and Alwar. However, no documents could be found which would reveal the sale of such jewels.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Cultural Programmes at Mahabalipuram

3626. SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for setting up "Sound and Music" arrangements and cultural programmes at Mahabalipuram to attract more tourists; and

(b) if not, do Government propose considering setting up such arrangements and cultural programme at Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Not for the present.

Allotment of Palmolein Oil to Tamil Nadu

3627. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the allotment of palmolein oil to Tamil Nadu is inadequate to meet their demands; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the allotment according to the demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY):

(a) and (b). The Central Government is making allocations, consults State Governments regarding their respective demands for imported edible oils. For the Oil-Year 1979-80, which ended on the 31st October, 1980, Government of Tamil Nadu has projected a total demand of 15,000 MTs of palmolein. Against that demand, an allocation of 14,000 MTs was made out of which, the State Government lifted 12734 MTs of palmolein during the Oil-Year 1979-80. It will thus be seen from this that adequate allocations were made to Tamil Nadu. For the Oil-year 1980-81 beginning 1st November, 1980, the State Government has projected a monthly demand of 5,000 MTs of palmolein which appears to be on the high side considering the average lifting in the preceding year. Against this demand, 3,000 MTs of palmolein was allocated to Tamil Nadu for the month of November, 1980. Lifting by the State Government, out of this allocation was only 578 MTs till 29th November, 1980, leaving a backlog of 2422 MTs. The State Government is being asked to expedite lifting of the allocation.

Reserved Vacancies of Accounts Officers in Office of A. G. Gwalior

3628. **SHRI DALBIR SINGH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether reserved vacancies of Accounts Officers were carried forward for three years in October, 1979 to be filled up by promotions as per instructions of the Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. 16/5/74/Estt (SCT) dated 11th June, 1974 and No. 1/9/74 Estt (SCT) dated 29th April, 1975 in the office of the Accountant General, Gwalior, M.P.;

(b) whether a panel of 20 section officers was drawn in September, 1979 for 1979-80 by Departmental Promotion Committee of that office to fill up vacancies of Accounts Officers and names of four eligible section officers of Scheduled Castes were included at the bottom of this panel;

(c) whether 12 section officers belonging to non-scheduled castes have so far been promoted from this panel ignoring the section officers of the Scheduled Castes;

(d) if so, the reasons for not promoting the section officers of Scheduled Castes; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) It is a fact that reserved vacancies in the posts of Accounts Officers in the Office of the Accountant General, Madhya Pradesh were carried forward as per rules and others on the subject.

(b) A panel of 23 Section Officers was drawn up to fill up the vacancies in the posts of Accounts Officers during the year 1979-80 and names of four Scheduled Caste Section Officers were included at the bottom of the panel in accordance with their inter-se-seniority as per Government instructions issued in this connection.

(c) 12 Section Officers, all belonging to non-Scheduled Caste/Tribe, have so far been promoted from the panel in the order in the panel as per Government instructions without ignoring any of the empaneiled Scheduled Caste Section Officers.

(d) and (e). As promotion are made in the order in the panel, as per the instructions issued from time to time, the Scheduled Caste Section Officers could be promoted only when their turn comes as per panel seniority.