

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):** (a) and (b). On the basis of information received from the Crime Branch of the Police department, the Income-tax department conducted a search in the business and residential premises of Shri Bhola Ram of B/4/11, Rana Pratap Bagh on 9th and 10th January, 1981.

During the course of the search, silver weighing 1662.5 Kgs. valued approximately at Rs. 48 lakhs and jewellery valued approximately at Rs. 94,000 were seized.

Investigation in the matter is in progress and action as warranted under the law will be taken in due course.

#### **Extension to Retired Officials of Indian Airlines**

**778. SHRI R. P. YADAV:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of retired officials of Indian Airlines have been granted extension of their period of service.

(b) if so, the reasons for granting extension of service to such a large number of officials; and

(c) the number of such officials (category-wise)?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):** (a) and (b). Owing to acute shortage of licenced Engineers and Pilot-in-Commond licence holders on jet type of aircraft in Indian Airlines, the Indian Airlines granted extension in service to the retiring employees from specialised categories like Engineers, Pilots etc. to meet the operational needs. The need for their

retention in service is constantly reviewed. As a result of such reviews conducted in the recent past, it has been decided to retire those who were granted extension in service; and accordingly retirement letters have been issued.

(c) The number of such officials category-wise is as follows:

Engineers	32
Pilots	5
Technical Instructors	1
Others	3

#### **Slump in Export of Marine Products**

**779. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the slump by about 16.02 per cent in the exports of marine products during the first eight months of the current fiscal years as compared to the corresponding period last year;

(b) the eight recommendations made by the Committee headed by the former Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority some two years ago; and

(c) the action taken thereon by Government for safeguarding the interests of small fishermen?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN):** (a) The decline in the exports of marine products is mainly attributable to unprecedented fall in catches of shrimp all along the Indian coast, non-renewal of chartering arrangements in deep-sea fishing, fall in prices and uncertain market conditions due to recession in major economies of the world, deliberate policy of the importers to keep down inventories, quality problems in our major export markets and high cost of fuel, rendering fishing operations uneconomic.

(b) and (c). The Committee headed by the former Chairman of the Marine Products Export Development Authority made 17 recommendations. A statement regarding the recommendations and the action taken by the Government is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1860/81].

#### Setting up of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

780. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the reasons for delay in setting up of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the steps that have been taken to set it up expeditiously?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): Since the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is visualised as the apex refinancing institution for providing credit for agricultural and rural development, various agencies already concerned with rural credit had to be consulted and their points of view taken into account for finalising the framework of the bank. The setting up of the proposed bank is under active consideration of Government. A Bill for setting up of the proposed bank will soon be introduced in Parliament.

#### Stocks of Edible Oil in Madras run out

781. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stocks of edible oil in Madras have virtually run out;

(b) whether the Centre's decision to cut down the quantum of edible oils supply to vanaspati industry from 95 per cent to 70 per cent has contributed to this shortage of edible oil; 3656—L—8.

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation has expressed its inability to meet the needs of edible oils of vanaspati units in Western Zone; and

(d) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The present stocks of imported edible oils held by the STC, and the expected arrivals, are adequate to meet the needs of the vanaspati units in the Western Zone.

#### Rise in the Prices of Essential Commodities

782. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:

SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

SHRI NAND KISHORE SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities have continued to rise trend lately;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to check them?

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

(a) During the past two months ending January, 1981 there has been a mixed trend in the prices of essential