

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

(a) A number of measures are being taken by the Government to contain rise in the prices of essential commodities and to improve their availability. The major thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of various essential commodities, particularly the ones which are in short supply. An action plan has been drawn up by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation to increase the production of edible oilseeds. The public distribution system is being continually strengthened. In 1980, 40,000 more shops were added to the network of fair price shops. In order to augment domestic supplies, a few commodities like petro-products, edible oils and cement are being imported. The export of essential commodities is being regulated. The credit policy continues to be restrictive. From time to time the State Government have been requested to implement vigorously the Essential Commodities Act and orders issued under it as well as Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. Efforts are also being continued to improve the movement of essential commodities.

It may be added that the wholesale price indices of soaps and detergents have been steady during the past three months ending January, 1981.

(b) The Union Government does not have at present any proposal under its consideration to include more items in the public distribution system.

#### Security measures to protect investors in Bearer Bonds

1671. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH :  
SHRI SUBHASH, YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a note of the advice given by a Lok Dal leader to the people in Trivandrum on the 1st February, 1981 that they should line up before the State Bank of India on the 2nd February, 1981 and snatch away the money from the persons who come there to invest it in bearer bonds ;

(b) whether it is a fact due to the fear, the people did not turn up in large number to invest money in bearer bonds on the opening day ; and

(c) the security measures taken by the Government for the protection of investors in bearer bonds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA) : (a) Government have seen some press reports to this effect.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Non-availability of Raw Material

1672. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that raw materials are not available in the steel plants of the country ; and

(b) if so, the reasons of non-availability of raw material ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) & (b) . The major raw materials used by the steel plants are coking coal, iron ore, limestone, dolomite and manganese ore. Except when there is a serious power shortage or transport bottleneck, the requirements of raw materials other than coking coal are adequately met. The supply of coking coal to the steel plants has not been adequate due to constraints of production and/or transportation; the quality has also been deteriorating owing to the nature of deposits and as the deeper seams are mined. To make up for the shortfall and to improve the quality of coal blends used in steel plants, some quantity of low ash coking coal is being imported.

#### Era Sezhiyan Committee report on L. I. C.

1673. SHRI P. M. SAYEED :  
SHRI R. K. MHALGI :  
SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Era Sezhiyan Committee has recommended the setting up of common Pay Commission for all public sector institutions of similar type ;

(b) whether the Committee report has been fully accepted by the Government ; and

(c) if so, whether in view of the great resentment and strikes by the LIC, Government are reconsidering the whole issue ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) : (a) Yes, Sir.