

Production in Ordnance Factories

*986. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether production for both Services and civilians in Ordnance Factories has increased during 1960 as compared with 1959;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the new production likely to be undertaken?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramalah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total value of production for both Services and civil trade in the Ordnance Factories during the first 9 months of 1960-61 (1st April to 31st December 1960) the figures for which are now available is Rs. 19.86 crores (provisional) as compared to Rs. 16.16 crores (provisional) during the corresponding period of 1959-60. The increase is, therefore, to the extent of Rs. 3.70 crores, i.e., 22.9 per cent approximately.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of the Ordnance Factories to make the country self-sufficient in the matter of production of Defence Stores. It is not in the public interest to disclose details of new items, the manufacture of which is likely to be taken up in future.

Rise in Price of Consumer Goods

*987. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the rise in prices of the consumer goods after the presentation of the budget;

(b) if so, to what extent have they increased and whether this increase

is quite out of proportions with the additional levies announced; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have taken to check this abnormal rise in the prices of the consumer goods?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) Yes. Government have received reports from a few centres in the country that prices of some of the consumer goods have increased after the presentation of the budget.

(b) Price increases have been of varying degree. In some items viz., coffee, Hookah tobacco, vegetable product and superior kerosene the price rise is reported to have been slightly more than warranted by the additional levy. The rise in the prices of cigarettes, paper and paper board and some varieties of un-manufactured tobacco has been more or less in correspondence with the increase in duties.

(c) Prices are sometimes raised disproportionately soon after the Budget, but the market stabilises itself before long.

Untouchability

1916. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
 { **Shri Daljit Singh:**

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases have been taken up for offences under the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 in India during the last six months; and

(b) what percentage of such cases ended in conviction?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.