

- (3) Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices.
- (4) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the productivity of oilseeds.
- (5) Increase in area under non-traditional oilseeds crop like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.
- (6) Appropriate oil usage policy by the Vanaspati industry to encourage greater use of non-traditional oils.

#### Import of Edible Oils

3607. SHRI B.V. DESAI :  
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government have decided to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of edible oils every month ;

(b) if so, whether, inspite of the import of edible oils, the prices of edible oils in the country have been increasing faster than before ;

(c) if so, the main reasons for increase in prices and whether Government have not been able to control the rise in prices even after importing edible oils ; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take to check the rise in prices of edible oils ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR. M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) The import of edible oils is not made on a monthly basis. It is determined periodically on the basis of demand and production in the country, price trends in the national and international markets, availability of foreign exchange and such other factors.

(b) and (c). Of late the wholesale price

index of edible oils is showing a softening trend.

(d) A number of steps have been taken by Government which include :

- (i) continuing import of edible oils to supplement the domestic availability and release of larger quantities of imported oils for the public distribution system and to the vanaspati manufacturers ;
- (ii) extension of the small packs scheme to a number of cities all over the country ;
- (iii) increasing the production of oilseeds and tapping non-traditional sources of oils to the extent possible so as to reduce the gap between the demand and supply of edible oils ;
- (iv) enforcing effectively various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, Stocks Control Orders and similar legislations by the State Governments/Union Territories.

#### Increasing Soyabean Production

3608. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of soyabean has increased in Madhya Pradesh during the last Kharif season ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) district-wise production figures and area under cultivation during last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). The estimates for production of soyabean during 1983-84 have not yet become available. However, the production of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh has increased to a level of 3.59 lakh tonnes in 1982-83 as against 2.40 lakh tonnes during 1979-80.

(c) The information is being collected