

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c). Final Report of the Committee on Rational Development of Food Industry, on which the Directorate General of Technical Development is also represented, is still awaited.

Licences to Monopoly Houses for Expansion under Export Orientation programme

3331. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases where big monopoly houses have been given licences for expansion in order to have export orientation, though the product can be produced in the small scale industry ; and

(b) if so, the measures Government are considering to deal with such cases ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) It was announced on the 25th July, 1970 that in the interests of stepping up exports, the applications of Units other than small-scale units for expansion or creation of new capacities in respect of industries which have been reserved for development exclusively in the small scale sector can be considered if they undertake an export obligation of a minimum of 75% of the new or additional production, to be achieved within a maximum period of three years. During the period from 26th July, 1970 to 30th April, 1971, no industrial licence has been issued to any of the companies belonging to or controlled by the Larger Houses for substantial expansion in respect of industries reserved for development exclusively in the small scale sector.

(b) The applications of Larger Houses for industrial licences for substantial expansion under the above policy, when received, will be examined on merits and as per the procedure applicable to each case.

Increase in Prices of Essential Commodities

3332. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :
SHRI H. M. PATEL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the present upward trend in the prices of essential commodities of daily use and its adverse effect on the poorer section of society ;

(b) whether this problem has emerged immediately after the presentation of the General Budget in Lok Sabha ; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check this rapid growth in prices ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) and (b). A statement showing the weekly wholesale price indices of 36 essential articles on 29-5-71 and 5-6-71 is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-557/71*]. It would be observed therefrom that the wholesale price indices of tobacco manufactures, petrol, vanaspati, gur and kerosene have increased after the presentation of the Budget, while wholesale price indices of a number of articles have remained steady or decreased.

(c) The Government is taking all possible steps towards maintenance of price stability and policies and measures affecting prices are kept under continuous review.

Pending Cases in Calcutta High Court

3333. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether largest number of cases in the country are pending in the Calcutta High Court ;

(b) the number of cases pending till April 1971 ; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the functioning of the Calcutta High Court.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 72,459 as on 1st April, 1971.

(c) A statement is attached.