

ing season and no further buying and importing is needed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This loan will not meet the total requirement of potassic fertilizers for the two agricultural seasons of 1974; arrangements have been made for additional procurement from other sources.

#### Prices of Essential Commodities

5809. SHRI P. VENKATASUB-BAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the essential commodities whose prices have been increased during the current year with the number of times they have been increased and their percentage increase over the last year, item-wise; and

(b) the factors responsible for each of them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) During the course of the year prices of foodgrains, vanaspati, kerosene oil, soap and certain bulk drugs had to be revised. In the case of vanaspati, prices were raised three times and lowered twice the net increase being 26.8 per cent. Kerosene prices were raised on 3-11-73 but were reduced a few days later, giving a net increase of 32.2 per cent. Soap prices were raised by 13.2 per cent in July, while increases allowed during the year in the case of six bulk drugs ranged from 10.7 per cent to 57.0 per cent. The upward revisions effected in November 1973 in the issue prices of rice, coarse grains and wheat amounted to 25.3, 23.9 and 14.9 per cent respectively.

(b) The issue prices of foodgrains were increased in view of the higher procurement prices and the need to reduce the burden of subsidy. The changes in vanaspati prices were necessitated by the fluctuations in the prices of raw oils. The price of kerosene had to be revised upwards following the increased cost of crude and the necessity of reducing the consumption of petroleum products. An additional consideration was the desirability of closing the gap between the prices of kerosene and HSD in order to check

adulteration of the latter. In the case of soap the increase in prices were permitted because of a rise in the prices of indigenous oils and of imported fatty materials required for production. The prices of bulk drugs were enhanced following increases in the c.i.f. cost or because of higher cost of production.

#### Loan asked for by Electricity Board of U.P. for Rural Electrification from Punjab National Bank

5810. SHRI B. S. BHAURA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4292 on the 24th August, 1973 regarding loan asked for by Electricity Board of U.P. for rural electrifications from Punjab National Bank and state whether Government have taken any decision with regard thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Under the procedure prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India, all loan proposals from public sector undertakings, including Electricity Boards, exceeding Rs. 3 crores have to be submitted by the respective banks to the Reserve Bank for credit authorisation. The U.P. State Electricity Board had approached various commercial banks, including Punjab National Bank for grant of credit facilities. The Reserve Bank of India has given credit authorisation for some of these proposals. As to the names of the banks and the amounts involved, it will not be permissible to divulge the information, having regard to the practices and usages customary among bankers as also in conformity with the provisions of Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

सहकारी बैंकों से काम कर रहे कर्मचारियों के संबंध में एक मांग पत्र पेश करना

5811. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अखिल भारतीय बैंक कर्मचारी संघ ने सरकार को सहकारी बैंकों में कार्य कर रहे कर्मचारियों के संबंध में एक मांग पत्र पेश किया है ;