

**Reasons for rise in price of Edible Oils**

770. SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for sharp rise of mustard, coconut, groundnut and other edible oils ;

(b) Whether production of oil seeds showed much improved record;

(c) if so, the reasons for such sharp rise of price of different edible oils ;

(d) the facts about rise of price of oils since last November, 1973 ; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for bringing down price of edible oils ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) The

rise in the prices of edible oils is due mainly to the serious setback in the production of oilseeds during 1972-73 as a result of widespread drought in the kharif season in the major producing areas, consequent depletion of stocks, speculative trading and hoarding of stocks, dislocation of supplies due to disturbed conditions in Gujarat and the rise in the general price level.

(b) The output of kharif oilseeds during 1973-74 is reported to have been generally good. The sowings of rabi oilseeds also took place generally under favourable conditions ; it is too early, however, to give an idea of the size of the crop.

(c) The reasons are indicated against (a) above.

(d) The following table shows month-end Index numbers of wholesale prices of principal edible oils in the country since October 1973 :—

Oil	Month-end				Latest index for week ended 2-2-74
	October 1973	November 1973	December 1973	January 1974	
Groundnut oil . . . . .	349.7	309.2	344.7	353.8	360.7
Sesamum oil . . . . .	318.2	295.4	307.4	321.0	328.8
Mustard oil . . . . .	365.0	376.9	423.4	460.9	456.2
Coconut oil . . . . .	485.2	530.6	526.9	571.1	555.9
Edible Oils (Group) . . . . .	350.6	336.6	360.9	377.8	381.1

(e) The Government have taken a number of steps to improve the availability of vegetable oilseeds and oils in the country and to check the rise in their prices. These include augmentation of supplies through imports of various oilseeds, oils and tallow to the extent feasible, encouraging larger crushing of cotton seed and rice bran oils, promoting greater utilisation of minor oilseeds of tree origin, restricting the use of groundnut oil and mustard oil by utilisation of several substitute oils in the manufacture of vanaspati, increasing production of traditional, as well as non-traditional oilseeds like soyabean and sunflower seed

and regulation of bank credit and forward trading. Recently, the State Governments have been requested to take measures to check speculative trading and hoarding of stocks.

**बाबल का बमूली लक्ष्य तथा बास्तबिक बमूली**

771. श्री एम० एल० पुरती :

श्री उर्षातिरस्य बसु :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्रीय सरकार को बाबल की बमूली के लिये राज्य-वार कितनी मात्रा का लक्ष्य था;