

Seizure of Dynamite Sticks in Bombay

182. SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several people found in possession of Baroda-type dynamite sticks were arrested in Bombay; and

(b) the outcome of the investigation made in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). While investigating a case of explosion at Railway bridge near Kings Circle Railway Station on 28-6-76, Bombay Detention Crime Branch has arrested nine persons. Explosive materials including dynamite sticks have been recovered. The investigation has been taken by Bombay Police.

Technical Investigation of Major Fires and Cases Involving Explosives and other dangerous goods

183. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of technical investigations of all major fires and cases involving explosives and other dangerous goods conducted by the technical officers during the last one year; and

(b) the number of cases handled, examined and expert reports submitted on home-made live bombs, incendiaries and other dangerous articles used in connection with unlawful activities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). The Chief Controller of Explosives have, during 1975-76 enquired into 54 cases of explosions and examined 278 bombs and other dangerous articles involved in unlawful activities.

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

184. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA
SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM:

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

(a) whether there has recently been a disturbing upward trend in prices of essential commodities of mass consumption like edible oils, sugar, potatoes and cloth;

(b) if so, the reasons for this phenomenon; and

(c) specific steps taken by Government to keep the rising prices under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). In the recent past there has been no uniformity in the behaviour of prices of essential commodities of mass consumption. The prices of several essential commodities such as wheat pulses, kerosene oil, soda ash and soaps have either been stable or have declined. However, the prices of certain other commodities such as edible oil, sugar, potatoes and cloth have shown an upward trend. There is normal tendency for the prices to go up during the lean period every year. This year it was accentuated to some extent on account of delay in the onset of monsoon and deficient rain in the beginning of the rainy season. The cloth prices have gone up because of increase in the prices of raw cotton which is attributed to short-fall in its production.

(c) State Governments have intensified their enforcement machinery to see that speculation and hoarding do not take place. To augment the supplies of groundnut oil for direct consumption it has been made obligatory

sumption it has been made obligatory on vanaspati manufactures to use imported oils to the extent of 50 per cent in the manufacture of vanaspati. The import of edible oils has been stepped up. The export of HPS groundnuts has been banned. An additional quota of 20 thousand tonnes of non-levy sugar has been released for August, 1976. The export of potatoes has been banned. Raw cotton is being imported to supplement the domestic stock.

Constraint on Private Industry

185 SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the Press statement made by the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Madras on July 18, 1976 to the effect that private sector industry was unable to take full advantage of the present good climate for economic growth, because it was unable to mobilise normal equity capital;

(b) the reactions of Government to this statement; and

(c) whether any dialogue has taken place between the FICCI and the Government about the nature of constraints felt by industry in regard to the full utilisation of its installed capacity and expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following information relating to the capital raised by the non-Government companies during the fiscal year 1975-76 indicates that there was an increase of Rs 3967.91 lakhs over the year:

Year	(Rupees in lakhs)
1974-75	18873.50
1975-76	17841.41

Further the All India Index of Security Prices (1976-71=100) which had touched a low ebb in May, 1976 registered an improvement in June, 1976 there by indicating that market expectations are improving subsequent upon the improvement in the State of country's economy. Subsequent stock markets reports also indicate further improvement in share prices.

(c) No specific dialogue has taken place between the FICCI and the Government about the constraints felt by industry. However, various aspects of industry, including the constraints, are discussed with Government at various forums like Central Advisory Council for Industries, Development Councils, Panels etc.

Production of Consumer Goods

186 SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the production of some consumer goods has fallen considerably during the year 1976;

(b) if so the facts thereof,

(c) whether the manufacturers of these consumer goods have cut the production wilfully to create artificial scarcity, thus to keep the prices at higher levels, and

(d) if so, action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (d) A statement indicating the production of various consumer goods industries during the first six months of the year 1976 as compared to corresponding period in the previous year is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No. LT-11008/76].

It is only in the case of 19 items out of a total of 37 that there has been a fall in production. There are no indications that the manufacturers of these consumer goods have cut the