

their children. The public sector banks are now attempting an overall quantitative and qualitative assessment of the work done by them in assisting this Programme.

Rise in Wholesale Price Index

479. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI:

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA;

SHR Y. ESWARA REDDY;

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the month-wise rise registered in the indices of wholesale prices of commodities from January to July, 1976;

(b) the causes of the rise assessed by Government; and

(c) measures now taken by Government to arrest this rising trend of prices over and above the anti-inflationary steps already taken since 1974?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) The variations in the Wholesale Price Index (1961-62=100) since January 1976, have been as follows:—

	Index (Last week of the month)	Per- centage change (Over previous month)
December 1975	291.1	
January 1976	289.5	-0.5
February 1976	284.3	-1.8
March 1976	282.9	-0.5
April 1976	290.5	+2.7
May 1976	292.7	+0.8
June 1976	301.8	+3.1
July 1976	206.8	+1.7

(b) and (c). The rising tendency noticeable since April, 1976 is attributable partly to adverse weather conditions which prevailed for a short period, leading to speculative and hoarding activities and partly to seasonal pressures as in the case of edible oils, oilseeds and fruits and vegetables. A number of measures have been taken to check the price rise. These include intensification of drive against speculators and hoarders, stepping up of minimum margins on bank advances against oilseeds/vegetable oils and cotton, augmenting availability through additional imports of edible oils, raw cotton, synthetic fibres and larger 'releases' of sugar. These measures combined with those already in force and aided by the onset of monsoon from mid-July have produced a sobering effect on the price situation. In reversal of the earlier uptrend, the wholesale price index has dropped successively in three weeks ended July 31, 1976, the fall aggregating to 1.9 per cent.

Evasion of Taxes by a Firm Engaged in Manufacturing and Sale of Velvet

480. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax Authorities have detected tax evasion on a large scale during raids on residential and factory premises of a family concern in Bombay engaged in the manufacture, Sale and Export of Velvet;

(b) whether the family had invested money in a grape garden in Hyderabad and the intention was to convert black money into white and to show earnings as agricultural income;

(c) whether the concern was alleged to be functioning under 18 different names while only 8 used to pay income tax; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the raids and actions taken in the matter?