

vulnerable groups by starting projects for the manufacture of high-protein foods such as : 'BALAHAR',

MULTIPURPOSE FOOD AND WEANING FOOD.

INCREASE IN BANK RATE BY BANK OF ENGLAND

2522. SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bank of England has raised its interest rate to six per cent from 19th October, 1967; and

(b) what will be its impact on the Indian economy ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) The Bank of England raised the bank rate from 5½ per cent to 6 per cent on 19, October 1967 and subsequently to 6½ per cent on 9th November and further to 8 per cent on 18th November.

(b) Changes in U.K. Bank rate mainly affect the Indian economy in respect of interest payable on official loans, movement of banking funds and India's exports to the U.K. Interest payable on future, withdrawals of loans out of the unutilised portions of the authorisation prior to October 1965 would increase. Authorisations after October 1965 are completely free of interest. The inflow of banking capital may be lower. The rise in the cost of credit in the U.K. consequent to the rise in the Bank rate may lead to slight fall in the demand for India's exports for stock holding purposes. The rise in the U.K. Bank rate will not affect India's outstanding payment obligations and flow of official loans from the U.K.

AMERICAN BANKING AND INDUSTRIAL EXECUTIVE VISIT TO INDIA

2523. SHRI MAYAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of American banking and industrial exe-

cutive visited India during November, 1967;

(b) if so, the main purpose of their visit; and

(c) the subjects discussed by them with the Indian Government; and

(d) whether any report has been submitted by them ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

SMALL POX

2524. SHRI MAYAVAN :

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :

Will the Minister of HEALTH FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that experts have declared that small pox will break out in the epidemic form in the country in 1968; and

(b) if so, the reaction for Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet this threat ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) :

(a) Yes, according to the epidemiology of small pox, the year 1968 is likely to be a cyclic period for the next epidemic.

(b) and (c). The National Small-pox Eradication Programme is already in operation throughout the country. An All-India Smallpox Workers Conference was held in September, 1967 for considering the various preventive measures which should be taken to meet the situation arising out of the threatened outbreak of smallpox epidemic in 1968. The important recommendations for the said Conference are given below :—

(i) The vaccination drive against smallpox should be intensified by raising the strength of vaccinators.