

(b) The scheme is proposed to be introduced on a trial basis in a limited area in the next few months.

(c) Does not arise.

INCOME-TAX ARREARS

20. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:

SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the further steps which have been taken to realise accumulated income-tax arrears;

(b) whether prosecutions have been launched against some of the companies or individuals;

(c) if so, in how many cases; and

(d) the total arrears of income-tax as it stood on the 1st September, 1968 ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE. (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) The following further steps have been taken to recover the collectible arrears of Income-tax as early as possible.

- (i) Taking over of recovery work by the Income-tax Department from the State Governments in respect of all Commissioners' Charges.
- (ii) Creation of more Special Recovery Units;
- (iii) Greater emphasis on collection of demands created during the current year;
- (iv) Closer supervision over recovery of arrear demand.
- (v) Further improvement in the Functional Distribution Scheme with special emphasis on collection work.
- (vi) Appointment of one Assistant Commissioner each at Calcutta and Bombay exclusively for guiding and supervising the work of Tax recovery Officers in those two cities.

(b) and (c). Section 76 of the Second Schedule of the Income-tax Act empowers the Tax Recovery Officer to make an order of detention of the defaulter in civil prison. There is, therefore, no provision for prosecution of the defaulter.

Prosecutions have been launched against Companies and other employers who have deducted taxes from the salaries of their employees but not deposited them to the credit of Government. Information regarding the number of such cases of prosecution is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The information regarding arrears of Income-tax is available as on 31st March, 1968, on which date such arrears amounted to Rs. 374.51 crores.

RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

21. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:

SHRI B. F. DASCHOWDHURY:

SHRI N. R. LASKAR:

SHRI R. BARUA :

SHRI HEM RAJ :

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI :

SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI :

SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH
SHASTRI :

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

SHRI RAM KISHAN GUPTA:

SHRI HIMATSINGKA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the prices of all essential commodities have gone up during September and October, 1968;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring down or check the prices; and

(c) the causes of failure of Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI):(a) A detailed statement showing variations in the prices of 31 commodities/groups between August 31, 1968 and October 19, 1968, the latest date for which data are available, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in *Liberary*, See No. LT—2018/68]. Of the 31 commodities, prices rose in the case of 13 items, declined in the case 8 items and remained stationary in the case of remaining 10 items. The increase in the all commodities wholesale price index works out to 1 per cent during this period.