

STATEMENT

The rise in prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities has been a matter of great concern to the Government and they are fully aware of the hardships caused to the people. This rising trend in the prices has not only been persistent throughout the year 1973, but unfortunately has continued to remain so during the current year also. The latest cereals index is higher than last year by 44.8 per cent.

The main reason for the rise in prices could be attributed to the highly inflationary situation prevailing in the economy coupled with the decline in the production of foodgrains in the preceding years. In this situation the procurement price of foodgrains also had to be fixed at a substantially higher level to provide necessary incentive for production. Issue prices had also to be suitably adjusted at higher levels in order to reduce the burden of subsidy. A psychology of shortage had developed in the country, where in the expectation of a further rise in prices, there has been holding of stocks at all levels. There has also been speculative hoarding by the anti-social elements.

To meet the increasing demand of foodgrains about 6.1 million tonnes of foodgrains were released during the current year upto end of July, for distribution through fair price shops.

In order to improve the availability of foodgrains in the deficit States, restrictions on the movement of coarse grains have been lifted and also movement of wheat on trade account has been permitted. These steps have been suitably supported by anti-hoarding and other regulatory as also austerity measures so as to create conditions favourable for bringing some stability in the prices of foodgrains. In cooperation with the State Governments special production programmes are being organised to make the best use of the existing potentials.

Foodgrains are also being imported to meet the requirements of the public distribution system. In addition several anti-inflationary measures including selective control over Bank credit have also been adopted.

As regards sugar, it is being distributed through fair price shops on a uniform retail price through out the country, to cater to the essential requirements of the domestic consumers. In case of Vanaspati because of high prices of edible oils, the production as well as the availability has suffered.

The Government is fully aware of the gravity of the situation and is determined to take all possible measures that may be necessary, to meet the situation.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (पुरेना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सुब्रह्मण्यम् साहव ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है उस पर मैं कुछ निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। मैंने लिख कर दिया है। वह पहले आपने वक्तव्य को पढ़ें, फिर हम उन में निवेदन करना चाहेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह आप बाद में पढ़ लें।

12.53 hrs.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BILL

CONCURRENCE IN RECOMMENDATION OF RAJYA SABHA TO APPOINT MEMBER TO JOINT COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARI): I beg to move:

"That this House do concur in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that Lok Sabha do appoint a member of Lok Sabha to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide for the adoption of children and for matters connected therewith, in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shrimati Bhargavi Thankappan and do resolve that Shri Bhola Manjhi be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancy."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do concur in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that Lok Sabha do appoint a member of Lok Sabha to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide for the adoption of children and for matters connected therewith, in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shrimati Bhargavi Thankappan and do resolve that Shri Bhola Manjhi be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancy."

The motion was adopted.

12.54 hrs.

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) BILL

CONCURRENCE IN RECOMMENDATION OF RAJYA SABHA TO APPOINT MEMBER TO JOINT COMMITTEE

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) On behalf of Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit, I beg to move:

"That this House do concur in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that Lok Sabha do appoint a member of Lok Sabha to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or hospitality by certain persons or associations, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Smt. Parvathi Krishnan and do resolve that Shri Jharkhande Raj be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancy."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do concur in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that Lok Sabha do appoint a member of Lok Sabha to the Joint

Committee of the Houses on the Bill to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or hospitality by certain persons or associations, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Smt. Parvathi Krishnan and do resolve that Shri Jharkhande Raj be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancy."

The motion was adopted.

12.55 hrs

DELHI SALES TAX BILL—contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): I beg to move:

"That the debate on the motion 'that the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the levy of tax on sale of goods in the territory of Delhi, be taken into consideration' which was adjourned on the 1st August, 1974, be resumed now."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the debate on the motion 'that the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the levy of tax on sale of goods in the Union territory of Delhi, be taken into consideration' which was adjourned on the 1st August, 1974, be resumed now."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the levy of tax on sale of goods in the Union territory of Delhi, be taken into consideration."