

Reduction in Prices of Edible Oils

*151. SHRIM. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged the vanaspati/edible oils manufacturers to bring down the prices of their products voluntarily;

(b) if so, the extent to which prices have actually been brought down by the manufacturers; and

(c) if not, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Industry's response however was not encouraging. They wrote back subsequently, to suggest adjusting downwards of prices of 15kgs.vanaspati tins by Rs. 15/- per tin.

(c) The price of vanaspati is dependent on price of raw oils. Government's main effort is to bring down the prices of edible oils in general, by import for Public Distribution System and increase availability of substitutes.

Indian Council of Medical Research

*152. SHRIMATIGEETAMUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has passed an order against which the research scholars under the Society of Young Scientists staged a dharna outside the Ministry recently;

(b) if so, the details of the said order;

(c) the details of the demands of the

research scholars; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b). Research scholars under the aegis of Society of Young Scientists had staged a dharna outside Nirman Bhavan on February 6, 1991 demanding withdrawal of orders issued by the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (DG, ICMR). According to DG, ICMR, no orders terminating the services of research scientists were issued. However, a circular was addressed to Chiefs of the Divisions in ICMR stipulating that only Junior Research Fellows or Senior Research Fellows should be appointed in extra-mural projects and seeking their views about the manner in which project staff should be employed and funded.

(c) Main demands of the research scholars were withdrawal of the order in question, revision of emoluments and regular employment to research technical staff.

(d) Since *status quo* is being maintained and the circular was not intended to deprive the research scientists of their employment, no further action is required to be taken. Terms and conditions of employment of research staff are determined by the nature and duration of the project and are spelt out in the appointment letter issued to them. As regards revision of emoluments, the Executive Committee of ICMR has made some recommendations which are to be considered by the Governing Body.

Paising of Marriageable Age

*153. SHRI ANAND SINGH:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: