

19. **Globe University of Science, Kumbakonam.**
20. **Mahila Gram Vidyapith/ Vishwavidyalay (Women's University), Prayag, Allahabad.**
21. **Varanasaya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi.**
22. **Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Prayag, Allahabad.**
23. **National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur.**
24. **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University (Open University), Achaltal, Aligarh.**
25. **Shrimati Mahadevi Verma Open University, Mughal Sarai.**
26. **Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyapith, Kosi Kalan Mathura).**
27. **Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh.**

[English]

Stock of Edible oils

- *78. **SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY:
SHRI NANDLAL MEENA:**

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have adequate stock of edible oils to maintain its availability for domestic consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for high prices of edible oils in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to control its prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b). Since edible oil is a highly speculative commodity, it is not considered expedient in the public interest to disclose the quantity of edible oils available with Government. However, the Government will be able to maintain supply of imported oil through PDS. The overall stocks of edible oil are with the industry/trade as well as the Government. With the bumper mustard crop round the corner edible oil supply position is expected to improve in the near future.

(c) and (d). Main factor responsible for rise in prices of edible oils is rise in money supply and higher liquidity coupled with gap between the demand and supply. Government has been taking steps to bridge the gap by import of edible oil to the extent of foreign exchange availability and other factors related with import of edible oils. Various measures have also been taken to improve the availability of indigenous oils and curb the price rise. Some of these measures are granting of excise rebate on use of non-conventional oils in vanaspati, reduction of stock limits of edible oilseeds and oils by the dealers/processors and manufacturers of edible oils, permitting blending of conventional edible oils with non-conventional oils etc. State Governments have also been asked to undertake dehoarding operations and take strict action against hoarders and blackmarketeers in edible oilseeds and oils. Distribution of imported edible oil through Public Distribution System (PDS) at reasonable price is continuing. In addition, under the Market Intervention Operation, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is engaged in the sale of edible oils in consumer packs under the brand name of 'Dhara' which is cheaper than other brands of comparable quality available in the market.