

the edible oils easily available in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c). During the past 3 months, i.e. November, 1980 to January, 1981, there had been a certain rise in the wholesale price indices of indigenous edible oils like groundnut oil, gingelly oil, kardi oil, cottonseed oil, etc. During the same period the price indices of mustard oil and coconut oil had shown decline. From the week ending 20-2-1981 there has been a general decline in the prices of edible oils.

The recent rise in edible oil prices may be mainly attributed to fall in the production of edible oilseeds in 1979-80.

The shortfall in production encouraged speculative forces to operate contributing to the bullish tendencies in oil prices.

The Government have taken several long-term as well as short-term steps to improve availability of edible oils in the country. Some of the important measures taken are (i) encouraging production of oilseeds and planned effort to exploit non-traditional sources so as to reduce the gap between demand and supply of oils, (ii) continuing imports of adequate quantity of oil, (iii) release of more oils for public distribution system, (iv) voluntary price discipline by vanaspati industry, (v) maintaining steady production of vanaspati, (vi) encouraging production of more cottonseed oil, (vii) requesting State Governments to enforce storage control orders and other enactments, (viii) removal of restrictions on movement of groundnut and oil by Gujarat Government, and (ix) curbing illegal trading in oilseed and oils by the Forward Markets Commissions through periodical raids.

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Every week we see in the newspapers the price position. We see the fluctuations in the prices of essential commodities. We find the edible oil sold at a particular price to day, tomorrow at higher price and day after tomorrow at still higher price. The hon. Minister's reply is not clear as to how the prices should be brought to a stable level. He has not said anything about the control on the fluctuations. Secondly, it appears that these fluctuations in prices are due to

hoarding. The hon. Minister has not given any assurance to stop these hoardings. Will the hon. Minister kindly explain this point ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : To an extent hoarding can play a part. But the public distribution system is a corrective measure for distributing edible oil in a proper manner, in a regulated manner. It also discourages hoarders. But if the oil is available at lesser prices to the people, then the hoarders do not benefit from hoarding. Therefore, we do our best to discourage hoarding. But to a certain extent the hoarding takes place and in that case it cannot really be helped.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Creation of Leave Reserve Posts of Income-tax Inspectors

*168. **SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for creation of Leave Reserve Posts of Income-tax Inspectors in the Income-tax Department;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision in the matter ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by which time the Leave Reserve posts in the Income-tax Inspectors' Cadre are likely to be sanctioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA) : (a) to (c). A proposal for creation of leave reserve posts of Inspectors is under consideration.

(d) It is difficult to say when the final decision would be taken.

Regional imbalance after Nationalisation

*169. **SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) is it a fact that 23 districts of the total in the country, get about 66 per cent of the total bank credit i. e. about Rs. 619 crores on an average while