

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE:** The preference is about taking over of imports more. As regards exports, this is a subject where the necessary expertise and skill have to be built up. Over a period of time, it is the intention of the Government of India to take over exports also.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि आयात निर्यात का व्यापार सरकार अपने हाथ में लेना नहीं चाहती है परन्तु क्या इसका मूल कारण यह भी है कि जिल्ह लाइसेंस दिया जाता है आयात करने के लिए, वे स्वयं उसका उपयोग नहीं करते हैं, दूसरे को उमें बचते हैं और लाइसेंस देने समय सरकारके मन्त्रालय में कुछ अरुण बड़ी मात्रा में पैके लेने हैं तो यह धरा खर हो जायेगा इसीलिए इस व्यापार का सरकार अपने हाथ में नहीं लेना चाहती है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** यह प्रश्न हो रहा है या भाग दे रहा है ?

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE:** I do not contribute to the view of the hon. Member.

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** आप पहले इनमें बात कर लेने कौन लेता देता है ।

#### Withdrawal of Import Duty on Raw Wool

\*363. **SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the abnormal rise in the prices of raw wool in the International market and heavy Customs duty has hit hard a number of small factories;

(b) whether against 90 paise a Kg. in May and June, the raw wool price spurted to Rs. 2.02 in September and October last;

(c) if so, whether the high price and Customs duty would affect internal sales and export of woollen fabrics from India;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to withdraw the import duty on greasy wool to save the industry?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH):** (a) to (c). In view of the shortage of availability of raw wool and the abnormal rise in the prices of imported raw wool, some representations have been received from shoddy manufacturers and others urging, *inter. alia*, abolition of customs duty on imported raw wool. The prices quoted for different qualities of raw wool at Australian auctions were between 74 and 97 pence (i.e. Rs. 13.86 and Rs. 18.17) per Kilo on 23rd June, 1972 whereas on 13th October, 1972, these prices varied from 146 to 165 pence (i.e. Rs. 27.35 to Rs. 30.90). Actual impact on internal sales and export will be known only after some time when sales of finished goods for the next season commence.

(d) Representations from Federations and Associations of woollen manufacturers are under examination.

**SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:** May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any relation between the recent rag scandal and the price spurt?

**SHRI K. R. GANESH:** The price of raw wool in the international market has gone up. It has no relation with the rag scandal.

**SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:** In view of the fact that the wool industry completely depends upon import of wool, is there any proposal under consideration of the Government of India to see that, internally, the wool production is improved?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: There is a proposal before Government to increase the production. Sheep-breeding has been improved and the quantity of wool produced has increased.

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala have made a request to the Prime Minister for fixation of prices of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**Loans provided to Adivasi Areas in Orissa under concessional rate of interest**

\*365. SHRI C. M. SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Central Government to the Adivasi areas in the State of Orissa under the scheme of concession rate of interest for certain categories of borrowers started by Public Sector Banks; and

(b) the number of persons benefited thereunder during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) and (b). Public sector banks have completed identification of the branches where the scheme of Differential Rate of Interest is to be implemented and have commenced lending under the Scheme only recently. Reports received so far indicate that in Orissa State 26 branches have been selected and of these 16 are in tribal districts. Details of the total amount disbursed under the scheme as well as the number of persons benefited in Orissa State are not yet available. In this connection it may be mentioned that the banks do not maintain statistics separately for Adivasis, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the one hand and the other borrowers on the other.

**Request made by Kerala Government for fixation of prices of essential commodities**

\*367. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) The Government of Kerala have made a request for the public distribution of essential commodities like foodgrains, pulses, sugar, cloth, edible oils etc. at fixed prices through fair price shops.

(b) There is already a network of fair price shops distributing wheat and rice at fixed prices. Levy sugar is also being distributed through fair price shops. In certain States a limited quantity of edible oil and pulses is being distributed through fair price shops. A decision has also been taken to sell the entire production of controlled cloth through fair price shops approved by the State Governments, Super Bazars, Fair Price Shops affiliated to the National Co-operative Consumers Federation and mills' retail shops.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What has it got to do with his Ministry, Sir? I think it has nothing to do with his Ministry. Is his Ministry a Ministry of 'shock absorbers'?

SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister consider increase of fair price shops in Kerala?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: I am sorry I won't be able to give the figure of fair-price shops in Kerala. For the entire area I do not have the figure with me. Kerala State is one of the States where there is a very good organisation of the fair-price shops. And, it is because of this, that the Chief Minister has pointed out that if there is supply of essential commodities they can make a better distribution.