

government will take over these mills. Is government going to do it?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I shall bear this suggestion very much in mind. But at the same time, I would assure the House that wherever these institutional finances are made available, we shall take care to see that unless and until we get a guarantee that there would be proper management, these funds are not made available.

Decision to increase the prices of Imported Edible Oils

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*891. **SHRIMATI V. JEYALAKSHMI:**

SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the prices of the imported edible oils;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) to what extent will it affect the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). Consequent on increases in the prices of edible oils purchased by the STC in the international market, the issue price of imported soyabean oil and palm oil to be supplied to the vanaspati industry has been increased for the quarter July-September, 1977. For this quarter, it has also been decided to increase the quota of imported oils from 75 per cent to 90 per cent. The increase in respect of 75 per cent quota is Rs. 500 a tonne, and for the remaining 15 per

cent quota, the increase is Rs. 2250 a tonne.

(c) The retail prices of edible oils, including vanaspati, will not be raised as a consequence. The Vanaspati Manufacturers Association has given an assurance that they will not increase the price of vanaspati. All care is being taken so that the consumers are not adversely affected.

SHRIMATI V. JEYALAKSHMI:

Under the present arrangements only metropolitan cities like Delhi would be provided with the supply of edible oils. What about the consumers in the rural areas? What steps are being taken to provide the supply of edible oils at cheaper rates to the rural areas where there are a large number of consumers?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as vanaspati is concerned, the prices are the same all over the country, both in rural and urban areas. It is true that we have pushed refined oil into big centres. But we are sure with this supply to the big centres of edible oils, there will certainly be better supply at reasonable prices in the rural areas also. All possible efforts are being made to see that edible oil is available at reasonable prices and lower prices even in rural areas.

SHRIMATI V. JEYALAKSHMI: It is stated that 90 per cent of the requirements are going to be imported now. How much of the allotment would be made to the rural areas? Even though we have a large number of consumers in the rural areas, they are not getting their supply of edible oil.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as the 90 per cent figure is concerned, it is for the supply of raw edible oil to vanaspati manufacturers. Instead of 75 per cent, we are giving them 90 per cent. We will take care that the prices of vanaspati do not go up higher.