

providing for additional measures of disposal have been recently issued to the field formations. These additional measures include sale of synthetic textiles and other consumer items like electronic goods and other miscellaneous items to

- (i) Military and Para-Military Organisations for the use of their personnel; and
- (ii) National Consumers Cooperative Federation Limited for sale to bonafide Cooperative Societies, Super Bazaars and Sahakari Bhandars.

Increase in Wholesale Price Index

*83. SHRI S. JAGANATHAN :
SHRI M. KALAYANASUNDRAM:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

- (a) the analysis of the rate of increase in the wholesale price and the consumer price during the last twelve months;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the wholesale price index of all commodities has gone up abnormally since the presentation of Budget;
- (c) the causes for the spurt in this index;

(d) whether the situation points to developing of a runaway inflation; and

(e) the remedial steps taken to avert the alarming trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Between May 1978 and May 1979 the Wholesale Price Index has gone up by 7.5 per cent and the Consumer Price Index by 5 per cent. (Details may be seen in the Statement).

(b) to (d). The important factors which have contributed to this price rise are seasonal pressures, upward adjustments in administered prices and higher import costs of petroleum products, cement, iron and steel and edible oils and rapid expansion in money supply during the last three years. A 9.6 per cent rise in prices since the presentation of the Budget so far i.e. upto 23rd June, 1979 is no doubt a cause of concern. However, in view of the fact that some of these increases are seasonal and likely to reverse themselves later and that some are on account of administered prices which are not likely to be repeated in the near future, the price rise so far is not an indication of a run-away inflation.

(e) The important measures adopted by the Government to check the extent of price rise include: coming into effect of expanded public distribution system from July 1, 1979, postponing the payments of instalments of compulsory deposits and tightening of bank credit, particularly in respect of sensitive commodities like sugar, pulses, oilseeds and vegetable oils, and import of commodities in short supply such as vegetable oils, steel, cement and rubber.

Statement

Analysis of rate of increase in Wholesale and Consumer Prices

Month	Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (1970-71=100)		All India Industrial Workers' Consumer Price (1960=100)		
	Index	Percentage change over the previous month	Index	Percent change over the previous month	
1	2	3	4	5	6
May	1978	183.1	+0.3	323	+0.3
June	1978	184.7	+0.9	327	+1.2
July	1978	186.7	+1.1	330	+0.9
August	1978	186.9	+0.1	331	+0.3
September	1978	186.5	-0.2	336	+1.5

1	2	3	4	5	6
October	1978	187.5	+0.5	340	+1.2
November	1978	187.4	-0.1	340	No Ch.
December	1978	185.3	-1.1	335	-1.5
January	1979	185.3	No change	332	-0.9
February	1979	184.6	-0.4	329	-0.9
March	1979	189.0	+2.4	332	+0.9
April	1979	193.6*	+2.4	337	+1.5
May	1979	196.8*	+1.7	339	+0.6

* Provisional.

Disposal of Income-tax Cases of Ansal Group

*84. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received a representation requesting him to take effective steps for the speedy disposal of the Ansal Group of cases in which the concealment of Income-tax to the tune of 5.5 crores is involved ;

(b) whether it is a fact that these cases are pending for the last five years;

(c) what are the details regarding these cases and what are the reasons for this inordinate delay in disposing of these important cases ; and

(d) what are the steps that have been taken for the speedy disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQARULLAH) : (a) A representation has recently been received alleging large scale evasion of tax by the Ansal Group and requesting for expeditious disposal of income-tax assessments in this group of cases.

(b), (c) and (d). There is only one case which is pending for more than last 5 years. However, there are 3 other cases where assessments were pending 5 years back and the assessments have once been completed but have since been set aside or reopened and the set aside and reopened assessments are pending as on today.

Details of these cases are as follows :-

- (1) Shri Chiranjil Lal 1965-66.
- (a) where cases were pending 5 years back but because of reopening or setting aside are also pending as on today. Ansal & Saigal Properties (P) Ltd. 1970-71, 1973-74 and 1974-75.

The income-tax authorities had conducted searches in this group in December, 1973. During the course of these searches, besides cash of Rs. 2.20 lakhs, a large number of books of account, documents and papers were also seized. In order to co-ordinate and for speedy investigations, the cases of the group have been centralised in the Charge of the Commissioner of Income-tax, Central-I, New Delhi early this year. A large number of assessments for the earlier years have been reopened, as also a number of assessments have since then been completed in this group. All efforts are being made for speedy disposal of the cases.

Seized Notes meant for Destruction Found in Office of RBI, Bangalore.

*85. DR. BIJOY MONDAL : SHRI ANANT DAVE :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether seized notes worth Rs. 60 lakhs meant for destruction allegedly found their way back to the cash counters in the office of the Reserve Bank of India, Bangalore ;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter ;

(c) whether any arrest has also been made ; and

(d) nature of action taken against the persons found guilty and steps taken to prevent such occurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQARULLAH) : (a) and (b). In May, 79 a Reserve Bank Inspector camping at Bangalore received anonymous information that cancelled seized notes awaiting verification and destruction had been pilfered and substituted. An investigation into the matter was immediately taken up by the Inspection Department, Central Office