

of the Reserve Bank and the same is still in progress. A complaint was lodged with the local police. Later, the CBI have been asked to take over the investigation. It is not possible to assess the actual loss at present as it can be known only after the investigation is complete.

(c) 13 persons were arrested, of whom 6 have since been released on bail.

(d) Further action against concerned staff will be initiated on receipt of the Enquiry/Investigation Reports referred to above. The existing procedures are being examined by the Reserve Bank with a view to fill the lacunae, if any, as also to tighten them up.

बल्ल निर्यात नीति

86. डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पाखेव : क्या वाणिज्य, नागरिक दुर्गि तथा सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बल्ल निर्यात नीति को 1 जुलाई, 1979 से पुनर्वाचित किया गया है;

(ख) क्या निर्यात कोटा वितरित करने का कार्य बल्ल निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद् को सौंपा गया है;

(ग) क्या इस परिषद् के विरुद्ध अनेक शिकायतें की गई थीं तथा पहले कोटे के गलत वितरण में भारीप में इस से वितरण कार्य वापस ले लिया गया था;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसे निर्यात कोटा वितरित करने का कार्य पुनः सौंपने का क्या औचित्य है ?

वाणिज्य, नागरिक दुर्गि तथा सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आरिफ बेग) : (क) से (घ) बल्ल कोटे के उपयोग, निर्यात तथा समुचित इकाई मूल्य प्राप्त के दीर्घाधि विकास के मूल उद्देश्यों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, वर्ष 1979 के लिये कोटा वितरण नीति नवम्बर, 1978 में तय की गई थी। उस समय लिये गये निर्णय के अनुसार, परिष्कृत निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद् को ऊनी निटबीयर को छोड़ कर सिन्डे-सिलाए परिष्कृत तथा निटबीयर का कोटा आवंटित करने का कार्य सौंपा गया था। उपयोग की प्रवृत्ति के बाजार पर दूसरी छमाही के दौरान मूल नीति में कुछ संशोधन करना आवश्यक समझा गया और दूसरी छमाही के सम्बन्ध में नीति की मुख्य बातें बचावमय प्रविष्टि की गयी थीं। तथापि, कोटा आवंटन कार्य करने वाले अधिकारियों के बारे में, जो कि नियमित बल्ल आयुक्त की निगरानी में किया जाता है, इस दूसरी छमाही में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया। यह निगरानी कार्य परिष्कृत निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद् के विभाज्य कुछ शिकायतों को देखते हुए लागू किया गया है।

Rise in prices of Essential Commodities

*87. SHRI R.K. MHALGI :

DR. BAFU KALDATE :

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

(a) whether the prices of some of the essential commodities are somewhat again on the rise ;

(b) if so, the details of actual rise since the presentation of the Budget. (month-wise);

(c) the reasons for rise in prices ; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to control the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPFRATION

(SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR GOYAL) :

(a) Yes, Sir. During the past few months, there has been increase in the prices of some essential commodities.

(b) The monthly movement of wholesale price indices of essential commodities since the presentation of the Union Budget for 1979-80 is given in the statement.

(c) The rise in prices has been due to the cumulative impact of several factors such as upward adjustment in the administered prices of certain commodities like petroleum products, iron and steel and cement; increase in the prices of imported commodities ; seasonality factor; impact of increase in excise duties on some commodities on imposition of import duty on imported edible oils and rapid expansion in money supply during the last three years.

(d) A number of measures have already been taken to curb inflationary tendencies, and further measures would be taken as and when felt necessary. Some of the important measures taken are briefly indicated below :

(i) Instructions have been issued to various Central Government Departments to exercise utmost economic discipline and reduce Government expenditure.

(ii) State Governments have been requested to adhere to authorized overdraft limits and to restrict non-plan expenditure.

(iii) An Ordinance has been promulgated to postpone by one year repayment of instalment of compulsory deposit falling due on July 6, 1979.

(iv) Reserve Bank of India has tightened bank credit against sensitive commodities namely sugar, oilseeds, edible oils and pulses. Reserve Bank of India has advised commercial banks to keep a strict vigilance on advances against such commodities in order to check any tendency to utilise bank finance for hoarding.

(v) The Scheme of monthly releases of sugar by Government was re-introduced with effect from June 5, 1979 with a view to maintaining the prices of sugar at reasonable level. From July 1, 1979, restrictions on weekly sale and despatches of sugar have been reimposed.

(vi) The ex-factory prices for printing paper and cream laid or wove paper have been fixed at Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 3,785 per Metric Tonne respectively. Under the Paper (Control) Order, 1979, the Central Government has empowered itself to direct disposal of stock and sale of white printing paper and cream laid or wove paper.

(vii) Although the procurement prices of rice and wheat were increased during 1978-79 (Kharif) and 1979-80 (Rabi) marketing seasons respectively, the Central issue prices for foodgrains for the public distribution system have not been increased so as to hold the price line. The demands of the State Governments for allocation of Wheat and rice are being met in full. State Governments have been requested to strengthen their public distribution system with a view to making foodgrains available

to the vulnerable sections of population at reasonable prices.

(viii) State Trading Corporation has started open market intervention in edible oils by selling imported oil. STC continues to meet the requirements of the various industries and also requirements of the State Governments for the public distribution system in respect of imported rapeseed oil/ Palmolein/RRD palm oil etc.

(ix) Efforts are being made to improve the movement of goods by rail. There has been considerable improvement in the movement of foodgrains to North Eastern States. During the past two days of June 1979, 51,000 tonnes of foodgrains have been received in North-Eastern States.

(x) Import of essential commodities like cement, edible oils, pulses and soda ash, in short supply, is being continued.

(xi) State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to strictly enforce the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packed Commodities) Rules, 1977, Essential Commodities Act, Price Display Orders and similar other enactments. They have also been asked to keep a close and constant watch on the price trends and to curb unwarranted increase in the prices of various essential commodities.

(xii) The Production-cum-Distribution Scheme has been launched from July 1, 1979 to cover larger population and more articles of daily necessity. The Scheme is expected to be in full gear by the end of the year.

(xiii) Special efforts are being made to increase in production in oilseeds and pulses.

Statement

Monthly movement of Wholesale Prices Index Number of Selected Essential Commodities during the period February, 1979 to May, 1979

| Commodity | Feb '79 | March '79 | Apr. '79 | May '79 | Page Change | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|-------------|----------|----------|
| | | | | | May '79 | Apr. '79 | Mar. '79 |
| | | | | | Apr '79 | Mar. '79 | Feb. '79 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Rice . . . | 157.8 | 157.5 | 163.0 | 167.7 | +2.9 | +3.5 | -0.2 |
| Wheat . . . | 161.5 | 161.0 | 154.7 | 150.5 | -2.7 | -3.9 | -0.3 |
| Jowar . . . | 152.6 | 147.8 | 149.2 | 149.1 | -0.1 | +0.9 | -3.1 |
| Bajra . . . | 139.3 | 138.0 | 141.9 | 142.3 | +0.3 | +2.8 | -0.9 |
| Gram . . . | 223.0 | 228.3 | 216.1 | 208.9 | -3.3 | -5.3 | +2.4 |
| Arhar . . . | 230.2 | 231.8 | 239.7 | 241.7 | +0.8 | +3.4 | +0.7 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| Moong . . . | 299.4 | 297.3 | 312.5 | 320.8 | +2.7 | +5.1 | -0.7 | |
| Masoor . . . | 231.7 | 214.8 | 239.1 | 235.3 | -1.6 | +11.3 | -7.3 | |
| Urad . . . | 226.4 | 226.7 | 242.6 | 243.7 | +2.4 | +7.0 | +0.1 | |
| Vanaspati . . . | 160.2 | 171.0 | 187.4 | 185.1 | -1.2 | +9.6 | +6.7 | |
| Groundnut oil . . . | 138.7 | 147.6 | 152.6 | 152.9 | +0.2 | +3.4 | +6.4 | |
| Mustard Oil . . . | 161.0 | 167.3 | 178.2 | 173.2 | -2.8 | +6.5 | +3.9 | |
| Coconut Oil . . . | 154.4 | 154.4 | 156.2 | 157.6 | +0.9 | +1.2 | S | |
| Milk . . . | 160.1 | 166.3 | 167.0 | 170.8 | +2.3 | +0.4 | +3.9 | |
| Meat . . . | 250.0 | 253.8 | 251.5 | 251.5 | S | -0.9 | +1.5 | |
| Fish . . . | 243.0 | 239.0 | 229.4 | 240.1 | +4.7 | -4.0 | -1.6 | |
| Potato . . . | 65.6 | 65.6 | 60.7 | 68.2 | +12.4 | -7.5 | -10.5 | |
| Onion . . . | 179.2 | 176.9 | 167.0 | 157.7 | -5.6 | -5.6 | -1.3 | |
| Sugar . . . | 134.1 | 145.1 | 162.0 | 160.3 | -1.0 | +11.6 | +8.2 | |
| Cotton Textiles . . . | 183.5 | 183.6 | 185.2 | 188.5 | +1.8 | +0.9 | +0.1 | |
| Kerosene . . . | 233.5 | 252.1 | 252.1 | 252.1 | S | S | +8.0 | |
| Atta . . . | 165.0 | 167.8 | 165.2 | 164.2 | -0.6 | -1.5 | +1.7 | |
| Chillies . . . | 128.5 | 119.9 | 124.4 | 117.8 | -5.3 | +3.8 | -6.7 | |
| Tea . . . | 198.6 | 207.6 | 195.7 | 188.6 | -3.6 | -5.7 | +4.5 | |
| Matches . . . | 102.6 | 130.0 | 129.0 | 129.0 | S | -0.8 | +26.7 | |
| Salt . . . | 195.3 | 204.9 | 211.5 | 214.2 | +1.3 | +3.2 | +4.9 | |
| Soap . . . | 171.9 | 181.8 | 184.1 | 181.7 | -1.3 | +1.3 | +5.8 | |

SHIPMENT OF SHRIMPS HELD UP IN U.S. PORTS FOR EXAMINATION

*88. DR. VASANTKUMAR PANDIT:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL
SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that shipment of Shrimps exported during March, April and May worth crores of rupees was held up in U.S. ports for examination and processing of "Salmonella" in the Shrimps.

(b) when was the warning about Salmonella content in Indian Shrimps given by the Food and Drug Administration; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to promote Shrimps export and remove the technical difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL
SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION
(SHRI ARIF BEIG) (a) to (c). Some
consignments were detained for inspection
of FDA authorities for Salmonella content
in the shipments.

FDA did not give any warning about
Salmonella content in Indian shipments.

Soon after the FDA subjected our
shrimps to Salmonella tests a Marine
Products Exports Development Authority
delegation went to U.S. and had discussions
with FDA and our Embassy officials.
As a result of this majority of pending
consignments were cleared. Subsequently,
FDA officials visited India for
seeing various processing facilities and had
discussions with concerned officials.
They also visited Kerala and other areas