

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a), (b) and (c). At the commencement of the First Five Year Plan, the number of hospital beds in the country was 1,13,000 and at the commencement of the Fourth Five Year Plan, the number was 2,55,700. The bed population ratio during this period increased from 0.31 to 0.49 beds per thousand population. According to the information that is available the number of beds per thousand population in other countries in 1965 was as follows :

Country	Beds per 1000 population
U.S.A.	8.75
U.S.S.R.	9.65
Japan	8.92
U.K.	9.83 (Public Health Establishment only)
Ceylon	3.13
India	0.49

(d) Out of the total Fourth Plan outlay of Rs. 437.50 crores for Health programmes, an allocation of Rs. 166.26 crores has been made for medical care facilities including Primary Health Centres. With targets of establishing 25,900 additional beds during the Fourth Plan, the existing bed population ratio of 0.49 beds for 1000 population is likely to be maintained.

Control On Banks Advances Against Oil Seeds, Cotton And Foodgrains

*325. SHRI R. K. BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the month of January, 1970 the Reserve Bank of India has issued directives to the scheduled banks tightening its control on bank advance against oil-seeds, oils, cotton and foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details of the directives; and

(c) to what extent the trade in the above items suffered as a result of these directives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The effect on the trade would be to the extent that excess holding of stocks would be curtailed by restricted availability of bank finance. However, movement of the commodities would not be affected as advances against demand documentary bills are exempted from the purview of the credit controls.

Statement

The Reserve Bank's directive dated the 21st January, 1970 prescribed the following restrictions regarding margins, rate of interest and limit of credit on the advances of individual banks against the following commodities :

Margins	Rate of Interest	Ceilings
1. <i>Oilseeds and Vegetable oils (Including vanaspati)</i>	Not less than 60% of the value of the relative stocks.	Minimum 10%
		Average aggregate level of credit during each two month period each against security of groundnuts and "other oilseeds including cotton seeds" and vegetable oils (including vanaspati) which should not exceed 70% of the average aggregate level of such credit maintained in the corresponding two-month period of 1967.

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<i>II. Foodgrains</i>	At not less than 50% of the value of the relative stocks.	Minium 10%	In any two month period not exceeding 80% of the average aggregate level of credit in the corresponding two month period in 1968.
<i>III. Cotton & kapas.</i>	At not less than 60% provided in the case of cotton mills the margin shall not be less than 40% of the value of the relative stocks.	Minium 10%	During each six month period not exceeding 85% of the peak level of such credit maintained in the corresponding 6 month period in the year 1967-68.

Mangalore Fertilizer Plant Project

*326. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) at what stage is the Mangalore Fertilizer Plant Project ;

(b) considering that its production will be entirely taken up in the neighbourhood, particularly the plantations, why it is not given priority over other plants ; and

(c) in case the delay is due to uncertainty about the commissioning of the Mangalore Harbour Project, the steps taken to ensure the completion of that project by the scheduled date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D.R. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). An Industrial Licence for production of 3,40,000 tonnes of urea per annum was granted to M/s Malabar Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. in December, 1966. The company has however not yet finalised the financing plan of the project and other details. The implementation of the project can be taken up as soon as these are finalised to the satisfaction of the Government.

(c) There is no uncertainty about the commissioning of the Mangalore harbour

project by the time of the commissioning of the fertilizer plant.

विक्रय कर अधिनियम

*327. श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है विक्रय कर अधिनियम शुरू में शराब की बिक्री के बन्द किये जाने के परिणामस्वरूप राजस्व में होने वाली प्रत्याशित हानि की पूर्ति के उद्देश्य से बनाया गया था ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उक्त कर अधिनियमित कर समझा जाता है और शराब की बिक्री पहले की तरह जारी है ; और

(ग) यदि, हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार इस बारे में अपनी नीति पर पुनर्विचार करने तथा पहली नीति अपनाने का है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्र० चं० सेठी) : (क) और (ख). बिक्री कर एक नियमित कर है जिसकी व्यवस्था भारत सरकार अधिनियम 1935 और संविधान को संगत प्रविष्टियों में है। यह राज्य सरकार का विषय भी है और राज्य सरकारों ने इस विषय पर बहुत से कानून बनाये हैं।