

(b) With effect from 1st January, 1977 (not from 1st July, 1977) general insurance business of companies with paid-up capital of Rs. 10 lacs and over is placed direct with the general insurance companies on "gross premium less commission" basis and no commission is payable in respect of such business to any agent.

(c) No, Sir. In the assessment of the general insurance industry, agents in respect of big blocks of business were, by and large, mere nominees and their appointment let to the malpractices of rebating and tax evasion. The change-over to "gross premium less commission" basis in respect of such business is intended to combat these malpractices.

(d) Does, not arise.

Proposals given by Government to Industrialists to keep the prices down

6309. SHRI YASHWANT BOROLE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether along with the advise and warning given from time to time to the traders to behave in keeping the prices down, any concrete proposal or programme has also been given to them to work upon;

(b) if so, the nature of such proposals/programme; and

(c) action, if any, taken by the traders in that behalf?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) to (c). Steps have been taken through the associations of industry to stabilise the prices of a few essential commodities and to curb malpractices indulged in by traders.

On the persuasion of the Government, the Cement Manufacturers Association have directed their dealers to display the prices and stocks of cement. The association had also told their dealers that their dealership would be cancelled in case they were found to be selling cement at higher than the controlled prices and indulging in any other mal-practices. The Vanaspati Manufacturers Association, apart from reducing the prices of vanaspati, have asked their dealers to displace the prices and stocks of vanaspati. The dealers have been warned that their dealerships would be cancelled in case they were found overcharging or resorting any unfair trade practices. The availability position of vanaspati has eased considerably, its prices is showing a softening trend, and there is some improvement in the availability of cement.

Similarly the tea planters and packers have been persuaded to bring down the price of tea. It has also been possible to ensure that adequate quantities of tea are brought for offer at tea auctions as a result of which the prices have come down considerably. Prices of certain industrial articles like tyres and tubes etc., have also been maintained at the existing level through discussions.

Closure of Small Gold Jewellery shops

6310. SHRI B. K. NAIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that enforcement of conditions relating to minimum turnover and consequent cancellation of licences have resulted in the closing down of a large number of small gold jewellery shops and loss of employment to the workmen employed therein; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to re-examine the whole question, renew the licences and revise the scheme by fixing different rates of turnover to rural areas, small towns and big cities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). The minimum turnover for the renewal of a gold dealer's licence, is an average of 50 gms. per month during the preceding year. However, in unavoidable circumstances such as droughts etc. Collectors of Central Excise have the discretion to lower the minimum suitably. In individual cases also Collectors may accept a lower turnover in genuine cases such as prolonged illness of the proprietor or partner etc. Having regard to the total number of gold dealers' licences that are renewed every year, the number of non-renewals due to lower turnover cannot be considered as large. The shops which have a very low turn-over, are also unlikely to be able to provide employment to workmen.

नांदेड़ (महाराष्ट्र) जिले में बहादुरपुर गांव के निकट क्षेत्र का पर्यटन केन्द्र के रूप में विकास

6311. श्री केशव राव घोडा : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिवंगत पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू के पवित्र अवशेषों का पूर्ण राजकीय