

(b) Government keeps a constant watch on the situation and action has been taken to moderate the price rise through (i) the augmentation of domestic availability by means of imports (e.g. edible oils, cotton and artificial fibres) or by placing restrictions on exports (e.g. potatoes, onions and tea), (ii) larger releases from Government stocks (e.g. foodgrains and sugar), and (iii) reduction of demand by changing compulsory usage regulations (e.g. 75 per cent use of imported oil in vanaspati manufacture and 10 per cent use of artificial fibres in the manufacture of cloth). Government will continue these measures as necessary. It also intends to strengthen the public distribution system.

(c) and (d). It is true that the expansion in money supply has broadly affected the level of prices. Government has sought to curb the inflationary impact of this by following a stringent credit policy. Restrictions have been placed on lending by banks against sensitive commodities to prevent speculative stock holding; expansion of credit by banks has been made difficult by impounding a part of their incremental deposit resources, by increasing the statutory cash reserve ratio and by making refinancing of bank lending by the Reserve Bank more restrictive.

Memorandum from Delhi Vegetable Oil Trade Association

877. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Vegetable Oil Trade Association has submitted a memorandum to deal with the present edible oil crisis in the country; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had already taken action on the lines indicated in some of the suggestions made by the Association. The other suggestions will be given due consideration in so far as they are consistent with the overall aim of the Government of making edible oil available to the consumers at reasonable prices.

Tourist Homes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

878. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:—

(a) how many Government tourist homes are there in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) what is the occupancy ratio of the tourist homes as also the break-up of the kind of occupants i.e. whether public or private for the year 1976-77?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) There is one tourist home with 24 beds at Port Blair built by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

(b) In 1976 the occupancy was 70 per cent of which about 40 per cent was by private parties.

Steps to Check Smuggling and Economic Offences

879. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for making a review of its anti-smuggling measures to evolve a new and effective strategy to check smuggling activities and other economic offences in the country;