

kg. have been received. The Mustard Oil (Price Control) Order has been challenged before the Supreme Court, whose decision is awaited.

(d) and (e). The State Governments have been advised to take action, as necessary, in terms of the powers available to them under the Essential Commodities Act. Arrangements had already been made to supply refined imported rapeseed oil to the States, as required by them, which is a good substitute for mustard oil. This is made available to the consumers through the State Public Distribution System, at an end price of Rs 7.50 a kg. By supplying a bulk of the requirements of the vanaspati industry through imported oils, the production level of vanaspati has remained steady and its price has been brought down Rs 170/- per 16.5 kg. tin (inclusive of excise duty but exclusive of local taxes) in mid-May to Rs. 140/- from 1st November, 1977.

#### **Rise in Cost of Living Index**

848. SHRI P. THIAGARAJAN:  
SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM:  
SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the analysis of the rise in the cost of living index from 1975 to date, indicating the period when it was curbed and the period from which it again shot up;

(b) whether Government are confident of arresting the unrestricted rise without taking emergent and stringent action against the parasites of society; and

(c) whether Government have arrived at any firm direction for containing this inflation, considering that all efforts have failed so far?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL):** (a) The decline in the All-India Industrial Workers' Consumer

Price Index (1960=100) which commenced in the last quarter of 1974 continued in the first quarter of 1975. The Index, thus, fell from 335 in October 1974 to 321 in March 1975. In the next quarter the Index rose by 7 points to 328 in June 1975. This was followed by a declining tendency which lasted till March 1976, the Index touching a low of 286. Thereafter it has steadily risen to 331 for September 1977 (the latest available).

(b) and (c). Government do not subscribe to the view that inflation has not been contained. Despite the continuing effects of the shortfall in production of certain commodities, and of substantial expansion in money supply, last year, the increase in the Consumer Price Index in the first six months of 1977-78 has been of the same order as in the corresponding period of 1976-77. With the decline in wholesale prices in the past few weeks, the Consumer Price Index is also expected to register a fall with the usual time-lag. Nevertheless, Government will not hesitate to take stringent action against anti-social elements who may try to take advantage of temporary or local shortages in order to force up prices.

#### **Amounts Advanced by National Co-operative Development Corporation Limited**

849. SHRI K. SURYA NARAYANA:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts advanced by the National Co-operative Development Corporation Limited through the State Governments in various States for the construction of cooperative sugar mills, rice mills and other processing units during the last three years; and

(b) the units which have completed construction and the working results with profits and losses?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-**