

of Actuaries and has revised the premium rates with effect from 1st April, 1980. Another major recommendation of the Committee of Actuaries was that, in order to ensure more equitable distribution of surplus, LIC should pay terminal bonus to policy-holders in addition to uniform reversionary bonus which has been paid hitherto. The LIC accepted this recommendation as well and has announced its decision to pay terminal bonus, called Final (Additional) Bonus, under policies becoming claims by death or maturity during the period 1st January, 1980 to 31st December, 1981, provided the policies have remained on the books for at least 15 years.

Demanding of Security on Loans by Banks in West Bengal

749. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOU-DHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the banks are demanding security even for loans below Rs. 2500/- in West Bengal;

(b) if so, why;

(c) whether government have issued any circular to the Banks in West Bengal not to demand any security from unemployed youths for loans up to Rs. 2500/-;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Normally, for loans of less than Rs. 2500 granted as crop loans or as loans for creation/purchase of moveable assets, the public sector banks do not ask for security other than the personal security of the borrower and the hypothecation of the crops/moveable assets created out of the loan amount. No specific complaint about the banks operating in

West Bengal has been received by the Government in this regard.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Meeting of State Chief Secretaries, Home Secretaries and Police Chiefs held in Delhi

750. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Secretaries, Home Secretaries and Police Chiefs of various States, who met in Delhi on 3rd April, 1980, suggested the re-introduction of display of sale prices of various commodities by the shopkeepers;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) action/decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Price Display Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 are already in force in all the States and Union Territories. In the Conference of Chief Secretaries, Home Secretaries and Inspectors General of Police held in April last, the need for effective implementation of these display orders by States and Union Territories was emphasised.

Rise in Prices of Grocery, Toiletory and other items

751. SHRI AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:

SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp increase in the prices of grocery and toiletory items like soaps, shampoos, tooth pastes, detergents, oils, pulses and milk foods during the last 2-3

months as compared to the years 1977, 1978 and 1979;

(b) whether some multinationals producing these items are responsible for this spurt; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to curb the price rise so as to bring it within the reach of poor men?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). During the last three months (March-May, 1980), the wholesale price indices for detergents, tooth paste and processed milk have remained generally steady whilst in the earlier years their indices have either remained steady or have gone up. However, the wholesale price period has edible oils during the same period has gone up by 1.7 per cent which is less than the increase of 11.5 per cent during the corresponding period in 1979 but more than the increase in 1978. In 1977 there was a marginal fall in indices of edible oil during the reference period. In the case of pulses the increase (8.5 per cent which is less than the indices during the last three months of the current year has been higher than the increases that have taken place in earlier years.

The index for soap during the past three months has moved up by 7.4 per cent and is higher than the increases that have taken place in earlier years.

Edible oils are produced by very large number of units in the country, both in the organised and unorganised sectors and the share of multinational corporations would be very small in the total production. Soaps are being produced both in the large as well as small scale sectors. The role of multinationals in the price increase of soaps will be looked into. The wholesale price index for shampoos is not available.

(c) Efforts are being made to increase the production of oilseeds and

pulses. Import of edible oils is being continued and during the first seven months of the current oil year (Nov. 1979-May. 1980) about 1.60 lakh tonnes of imported edible oils have been released to the States for distribution through the public distribution system. The import of pulses continues to be under Open General Licence.

The State Governments have been requested from time to time to enforce the various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the orders issued thereunder including Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977, vigorously. Similarly they have also been asked to implement the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

उचित दर बुकानों पर आवश्यक पदार्थों की सप्लाई

752. श्री मूल चन्द जगना: क्या नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में समाज के सबसे कमजोर वर्गों को उचित मूल्यों पर आवश्यक पदार्थों की ठीक समय पर सप्लाई को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कोई योजना तैयार की है और यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) यदि इस प्रकार की कोई योजना तैयार नहीं की गई है तो इसके कब तक तैयार किए जाने की आशा है और सरकार कब तक समाज के सबसे कमजोर वर्ग को यह लाभ मुहैया करवाने की स्थिति में होगी।

नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल): (क) सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली इस देश में लगभग तीन दशकों से कार्य कर रही है। इस प्रणाली की राज्य सरकारों, सम्बन्धित मंत्रालयों और भारत सरकार के अभिकरणों के परामर्श से निरन्तर पुनरीक्षा की जाती है। इस प्रणाली का उद्देश्य, राष्ट्रीय