

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Iron and Steel (Shri P. C. Sethi):** (a) to (g). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table.

#### **Increase in Prices of Woollens**

**433. Shri Lakhan Das:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Commissioner of Delhi of the Delhi Administration received complaints from M/s. R. S. Madho Ram & Sons' Employees about the wrongful increase in the prices of woollens from the old stock effected after devaluation;

(b) whether the firm can sell these goods at a rate very much higher than that mentioned in the Rate List for that stock;

(c) if not, the action taken by Government against the firm;

(d) whether prices of the old stock were further enhanced during and after these investigations; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):** (a) The Madho Ram and Sons Employees' Union had sent a representation to the Delhi Administration regarding increase in prices of woollen goods effected by the firm.

(b) to (e). The matter has been looked into and it has been found that no undue increase in prices has been effected by the firm on old stocks. There is no control on the prices of woollen textiles.

#### **Prices of Woollen Goods**

**434. Shri Lakhan Das:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dhariwal and Lal Imli Mills have increased the prices

of their goods from twenty to thirty per cent;

(b) whether this increase merely reflects the rise in prices of imported wool;

(c) if not, whether this increase is permissible under Law or under Government's policy declaration about holding the price line; and

(d) if not, the action taken against the mills?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):** (a) to (d). There is at present no control on the prices of woollen cloth. It is understood that Dhariwal and Lal Imli Mills have increased the prices of some of their products. The increase in prices of imported wool consequent on devaluation, is also a factor contributing to such price increase.

#### **Scarcity of Raw Coffee in Madras**

**436. Shri Sezhiyan:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the scarcity conditions of raw coffee in Madras for the past three months;

(b) the reasons for the short supply of raw coffee this year in Madras city and the State; and

(c) the steps taken to ease the situation?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):** (a) and (b). There is actually no shortage of coffee. All the varieties of coffee are easily available in the market. There may, however, be some short supply in respect of Plantation PB Coffee, which is particularly in great demand in Madras, due to short crop this year and adverse seasonal conditions. The coffee released for sale through Depots run by Propaganda Department of the Coffee Board is comparatively cheaper. Hence, there is a great rush for coffee at these Depots. It is perhaps this rush that