

**Prices of Foodgrains,
Sugar etc. (C.A.)**

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Of course, the price has been reduced by 2 per cent or so. We are only asking the retailers to reduce the price. If you go to the retailers in the market, they will tell you that they have been asked to reduce their price. But, what about the manufacturers? I would like to know from government about this. Of course, Mr. George said that he was doing his best. I know that Shri George goes on making many statements here about the price. He is an energetic person and of course, he is asking the retailers to reduce their prices in Delhi. Will he do the same thing in other places also? And will he ask the manufacturers also to reduce the price on the basis of ascertaining their production cost? I want to know from him what specific action he has taken in this regard.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Sir, in the process of bringing down the prices and stabilising the same at a reasonable level, we are not sparing anybody concerned. During the past five or four months, we have held meetings and dialogues with the various manufacturers and during the past two weeks or so, prices on some items have voluntarily come down. The major biscuit manufacturers like Britannia, Parley and Dalima who had got 18 per cent of production had brought down the prices. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He is giving us other examples.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: We had a meeting with the soap manufacturers who have also reduced their price of soap by 15 paise or 10 paise. We are having a constant dialogue with important manufacturers of this item which are of concern to the ordinary man and it would be our endeavour to continue that process and wherever we find a bit of leeway to reduce the price, we will never be failing in that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am here concerned with Hirdutan Level. When they have reduced the prices of

soap or not—we are not concerned with others.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: They have reduced the price of soap by 15 paise or 8 paise.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Several manufacturers have said that they would do that. But, with regard to those who have refused to do it, have they been arrested?

MR. SPEAKER: Obviously he has not been informed about it.

13.04 hrs

RESIGNATIONS BY MEMBERS

MR. SPEAKER: I now ask the House to sit a few minutes more to complete this business.

I have to inform the House that on the 26th May, 1976 I received a letter from Shri Baburao Jangluji Kale, an elected Member from Jalna constituency of Maharashtra, resigning his seat in Lok Sabha with effect from the 31st May, 1976. On the 27th May, 1976 I accepted his resignation with effect from the 31st May, 1976.

I have also to inform the House that I received a letter dated the 13th July, 1976 from Shri Arjun Shripat Kasture, an elected Member from Khamgaon Constituency of Maharashtra, resigning his seat in Lok Sabha with effect from the 16th July, 1976. On the 14th July, 1976 I accepted his resignation with effect from the 16th July, 1976.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Sir, have they given any reasons in their letters of resignation?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. They have given reasons.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Are they not to be disclosed?

MR. SPEAKER: I have verified they are genuine and voluntary. As far as I remember they have been elected to the Council there and both of them are in the Council of Ministers.