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[English]

Checking Inflation

8442. **SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has gone into the causes of rising inflation and suggested any measures to curb the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have drawn up any programme for implementation of these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (c). the Reserve Bank of India while outlining the credit policy for the first half of 1990-91 has

pointed out that one of the factors underlying inflation was disproportionate and persistent growth in money supply with the public (MW) last year. At 19.4 per cent this was the highest since 1978-79 when the expansion was 21.2 per cent. The very high rate of monetary expansion reflects the expansion in net RBI credit to the government in 1989-90. This has contributed significantly to inflation. Given the large overhang of liquidity, it is necessary, according to the RBI, to bring about a sharp break in inflationary expectation.

The above analysis of the price situation by the RBI is in line with the analysis contained in the Report of the Economic Advisory Council submitted to the Government and the pre-Budget Economic Survey for 1989-90 and has been kept in view in the formulation of the 1990-91 budget. The Government is following a multi-pronged policy to curb effective demand through strict fiscal and monetary discipline, supply side measures and steps to check inflationary expectations.

The RBI in their credit policy for the first half of 1990-91 has therefore, inter alia, increased the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SIR) from 38 per cent to 3805 per cent of net demand and time liabilities effective from September 22, 1990. Further, SIR of 25 per cent in respect of non-resident (external rupee account) and foreign currency (F.R account) is also being raised to 30 per cent effective from 28th July, 1990.

Use of "super 301" by USA Against Drug Imports from India

8443. **SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US administration is using the "Super 301" section of its omnibus Trade Act to call for for improved protection

for the products of the US drugs and the pharmaceuticals industry against the background of the Act's wide ranging retaliatory powers to block import and/or collect heavy damages from those unauthorisely using US patents, and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Patents like other intellectual property rights are covered by Super 301 provision of the US Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988. This law requires the US Trade Representative to identify those foreign countries denying protection of intellectual property rights and market access to US firms re-lying on such protection, and determine which of those countries are "priority countries". In 1989 and 1990 the US Trade Representative did not identify and country as a priority country and therefore, no investigation was commenced against any country. However, the US Trade Representative has placed India on a priority watch list and had called for changes in India law including those relating to patent protection.

Government's reaction which has been conveyed to the US authorities in that its law provide adequate protection for patents.

Export Target Fixed by Jewellery Export Promotion Council

8444 **SHRI S BASAVARAJ** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council has set up an ambitious export target for 1990-91

(b) if so, the target set up for 1990-91, and

(c) to what extent, it is more in comparison to the exports in 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (c). The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has made a preliminary projection that exports from the sector may be of the order of about Rs. 7,000/- crores subject to favourable trading conditions. The provisional export performance during 1989-90 was Rs. 5,444/- Crores.

Conference on Information and Cinematography

8445. **SHRI P. NARSA REDDY:**
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day seminar of Information Secretaries and directors and 20th conference of State Minister of Information and cinematography were held recently in New Delhi,

(b) if so, the salient features of the discussion and the decisions arrived at, if any,

(c) whether Government have felt the need for close interaction between Union Government and States and agencies at the grassroot level to formulate future information policies,

(d) whether there is any proposal to use the made effectively for the transfer of technology in agriculture and rural development in particular, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?