

Reduction in Prices of Edible Oils

*151. SHRIM. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged the vanaspati/edible oils manufacturers to bring down the prices of their products voluntarily;

(b) if so, the extent to which prices have actually been brought down by the manufacturers; and

(c) if not, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Industry's response however was not encouraging. They wrote back subsequently, to suggest adjusting downwards of prices of 15kgs.vanaspati tins by Rs. 15/- per tin.

(c) The price of vanaspati is dependent on price of raw oils. Government's main effort is to bring down the prices of edible oils in general, by import for Public Distribution System and increase availability of substitutes.

Indian Council of Medical Research

*152. SHRIMATIGEETAMUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has passed an order against which the research scholars under the Society of Young Scientists staged a dharna outside the Ministry recently;

(b) if so, the details of the said order;

(c) the details of the demands of the

research scholars; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b). Research scholars under the aegis of Society of Young Scientists had staged a dharna outside Nirman Bhavan on February 6, 1991 demanding withdrawal of orders issued by the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (DG, ICMR). According to DG, ICMR, no orders terminating the services of research scientists were issued. However, a circular was addressed to Chiefs of the Divisions in ICMR stipulating that only Junior Research Fellows or Senior Research Fellows should be appointed in extra-mural projects and seeking their views about the manner in which project staff should be employed and funded.

(c) Main demands of the research scholars were withdrawal of the order in question, revision of emoluments and regular employment to research technical staff.

(d) Since *status quo* is being maintained and the circular was not intended to deprive the research scientists of their employment, no further action is required to be taken. Terms and conditions of employment of research staff are determined by the nature and duration of the project and are spelt out in the appointment letter issued to them. As regards revision of emoluments, the Executive Committee of ICMR has made some recommendations which are to be considered by the Governing Body.

Paising of Marriageable Age

*153. SHRI ANAND SINGH:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the desirability of raising the marriageable age, irrespective of caste and creed, to check the unabated spurt in population;

(b) if so, the precise proposals considered in this regard; and

(c) the decision taken in the matter; if any?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (c). Raising the minimum age of marriage is relevant to fertility decline and therefore to population control. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 prescribes the legal minimum age of marriage at 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys. According to 1981 Census, the mean age of marriage in the country is 18.3 years for girls and 23.3 years for boys. It is desirable to further raise the mean age of marriage for better impact on population control. Efforts are on to secure this objective by bringing about attitudinal changes through education, social awareness etc. There is a perceptible change in this regard as is evident from the fact that the mean age of marriage of girls and boys has gone up from 17.1 years and 22.3 years in 1971 to 18.3 years and 23.3 years respectively in 1981 as per Census figures.

[*Translation*]

Development of Bareilly (U.P.)

*154. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be sanctioned for the development of Bareilly, (U.P.) as a counter magnet city during the Eight Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of the development

schemes and the amount released so far for this city?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) and (b). Pending Finalisation of the Action Plan, no decision has been taken on the provision of funds for the development of Bareilly (UP) as a counter-magnet town.

Steps to make Literacy Campaign a Success

*155. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government and private organisations to make literacy campaign a grand success;

(b) the nature of assistance being given to Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Nehru Yuva Kendra and All India Students Union in this campaign;

(c) whether the reading material and teachers etc. are being provided in all spoken languages to make the campaign a success; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMAN-GAL PANDE): (a) The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to 80 million illiterate adults in the 15-35 age-group by 1995. It is societal mission as it seeks to mobilise all sections of the society to promote literacy. Accordingly, in addition to the adult education programme run by the State Govts/UTs, other organisations like Voluntary Agencies, educational institutions, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Ex-Servicemen and Zilla Sakshartha Samitis consisting of both Govt. and Non-Govt, function-