

stated that the prices of agricultural commodities have gone up. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the prices rose when the commodities were released from the godowns of the traders in the market or at a time when the farmers sold them to the traders? In my view the prices have risen when the commodities were sold to the farmers and the consumers by the traders. The prices did not rise when they passed on to traders from the farmers.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very pertinent question. It was because of this that the Government announced the prices of sugarcane in time and allowed an increase therein. It was decided in respect of oilseeds that Vanaspati Industries would use 10 per cent indigenous oil and an increase has been effected in the quantum of imported oil, so that the farmers could know about it and get remunerative price. The increase has been allowed keeping both these factors in view.

[*English*]

Buy-Back Arrangements with Italy

*84. **SHRI AKHTAR HASAN :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation from the Commission for Industry and Commerce of Italy visited India recently;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed during discussions with them; and

(c) whether the visit has contributed to boost buy-back arrangements with that country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation from the Commission for Industry and Commerce of the Italian Chamber of Deputies exchanged views on commercial and economic relations between India and Italy.

(c) The delegation was not a buyers' delegation and could not have been involved in any business transactions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister please tell whether any agreement was signed with the delegation after exchange of views? If so, will this House be taken into confidence about that?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Hon. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, this foreign delegation was a deligation from the Chamber of Deputies which is the counterpart of our Lok Sabha. They had come only for exchange of views and, therefore, there was no question of signing any agreement with them.

[*English*]

Karnataka's Share in Small Savings Collections

*85. **DR. V. VENKATESH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Karnataka have urged the Union Government to enhance the State's share of small savings collections from 66 per cent to 75 per cent;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) when the request of the Karnataka Government is being acceded to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. A suggestion to this effect was made by the Government of Karnataka at the meeting of the National Savings Central Advisory Board held on 27-9-1985 at New Delhi.

(b) and (c). It has not been possible to accept the suggestion in view of budgetary constraints and the liberal terms that these loans enjoy.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Next to commercial taxes and excise, the small savings is the major source of mobilising funds for development in the States. In spite of Karnataka being the first State in the South in mobilising the small savings, the State