

- increase in the number of retail outlets to cover far-flung areas in such a way that there is at least one outlet for a population of 2,000;
- improving the viability of fair price shops through a judicious sales-mix and minimum sales turnover;
- establishment of Vigilance Committees with the involvement of consumers endowed with statutory powers for exercising supervision and vigilance over the public distribution system and safeguarding consumers' interest. High Powered Committees to be set up at the Centre and State levels for coordination and supervision of the totality of the distribution as a whole, and to oversee the activities and recommend suitable measures to Government from time to time.

#### Facilities for Exchange of Foreign Currency

\*260. SHRI SHAMBHUNATH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is only one bank in New Delhi in Asoka Hotel affording facility of exchange of foreign currency all the 24 hours and on holidays;

(b) whether this places the foreign tourists at a disadvantage and leads to charging of high rates of discount; and

(c) whether Government will look into this and consider the advisability of affording similar facilities at the Reserve Bank or at some other centres also for the convenience of foreign visitors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Besides the Central Bank of India at Ashoka Hotel, the State Bank of India, Exchange Bureau at Palam Airport also functions for 24 hours including on

Sundays/holidays to provide the facility of exchange of foreign currency. A number of hotels in Delhi also provide this facility 24 hours and on holidays to the foreign tourists staying with them.

(b) No such complaint has been received by the Government.

(c) The existing facilities are considered adequate of the present.

#### Proposal to ban trade between Wholesale salers

\*261. SHRI MOHINDRA SINGH SAYIAN WALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban trade between one wholesaler and another on the ground that it adds to the prices of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b). The implications of the proposal are being examined.

#### Supply of Wagons to Uganda

\*263. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Projects and Equipment Corporation has made heavy default in supply of wagons to Uganda;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the loss to this country as a result of cost escalation;

(d) whether the responsibility for this has been fixed; and

(e) if so, details thereof?