

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) and (b). The Government of India have been giving national awards for outstanding performance in the implementation of family planning since 1960. A statement containing the details of the awards given so far is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1590/67].

CONSTITUTION OF A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

*112. SHRI SIDDAYYA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken regarding the constitution of a Parliamentary Committee for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the functions and powers of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA) : (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

HOLDING OF PRICE LINE

*114. SHRI M. MEGHACHANDRA : SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA : SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : SHRI CHARANJIT RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the further steps which have been taken by Government to hold the price line;

(b) whether as a result of these steps, there has been any improvement in the situation; and

(c) if so, to what extent ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) With a view to checking the rise in prices, Government has been endeavouring to stimulate agricultural and industrial output by helping to increase the supply of inputs as also

credit wherever necessary, to check the pressure of overall demand through appropriate fiscal and monetary restraints, to augment the supplies of foodgrains etc. through imports and to regulate, to the extent necessary, prices and/or distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities in short supply. In the middle of September 1967, Government promulgated an Ordinance amending the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, so as to make its penal provisions more stringent and its enforcement more effective.

(b) and (c). The general price level has shown a fall in recent weeks. The general index (1952-53=100) of wholesale prices, which had risen to a peak level of 224.1 in the week ended October 14, 1967 has declined thereafter by 3.6 per cent to 216.1 (provisional) in the week ended October 28, 1967—latest week for which data are available. The index for food articles has fallen by 5.5 per cent from 265.3 on October 14, to 250.6 (provisional) on October 28, 1967.

परिवार नियोजन के लिए रूसी सहायता

*115. श्री शिवकुमार शास्त्री : क्या स्वास्थ्य तथा परिवार नियोजन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि परिवार नियोजन के लिये अपक्षित सहायता प्राप्त करने के लिये वह हाल ही में रूस गये थे ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसका क्या परिणाम निकला ?

स्वास्थ्य, परिवार नियोजन तथा नगर विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० एस० चन्द्रशेखर) : (क) और (ख). सोवियत संघ की यात्रा परिवार नियोजन के लिये सहायता पाने के लिये नहीं थी। सोवियत संघ के स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों के साथ भारतीय परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम पर सामान्य रूप से विचार-विमर्श किया गया था और सोवियत संघ प्रयोग किए जाने वाले विभिन्न परिवार नियोजन के उपायों की जानकारी प्राप्त की गई थी।