

Publicity to Price Bulletin

3540. SHRI RAMA CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have any scheme to give more publicity to price Bulletin prepared by the Management Information System; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

((b) The question does not arise.

Non-payment of Exise duty and Sales tax by Super Bazar

3541. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether complaints were received that Super Bazar has not been passing the relief on account of Central Excise concession received by it to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the amount of outstanding excise duty and sales tax against Super Bazar that has not been deposited by Super Bazar to Government since very long period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KA-

MALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir,

(b) to (d) It has been informed by the Super Bazar that there is no outstanding excise duty or Sales tax to be paid by the Super Bazar.

Sale of spurious cosmetics in the market

3542. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that about 30 per cent of the cosmetics available, at present, in the markets of the country are spurious;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have estimated loss of revenue as a result of their sales; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a demand for reduction in their prices through levy of rationalisation of excise duty so as to boost the sale of genuine products and speedy collection of excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The State Governments are responsible for exercising and monitoring control over cosmetics manufactured, sold and distributed in the States. Whenever any complaint regarding quality of cosmetics is received, raids are conducted by State Drugs Inspectors to unearth/cancel spurious cosmetics and further action to suspend/cancel licence or prosecute the offender after a thorough investigation. To prevent the sale of spurious or substandard cosmetics, the State Governments/Union Territories have been advised to strengthen

both the enforcement machinery and facilities for testing cosmetics.

(b) and (c) There is no information available regarding the estimated loss or revenue as a result of spurious sale of cosmetics. No representation was received for rationalisation of excise duty on cosmetics so as to boost the sale of genuine products and speedy collection of excise duty on cosmetics was received from several quarters prior to budget. Considering such requests, the excise duty on cosmetics and toiletry preparations were reduced from 120.75 per cent to 70 per cent.

Prices of essential commodities

3543. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import essential commodities if steep price rise continues in the domestic market;

(b) if so, whether Government have started monitoring the prices of 10 essential commodities on day to day basis and on a weekly basis;

(c) whether Government have also decided not to hesitate to interfere in the market by releasing foodgrains;

(d) whether Ministry has pointed out that the inflation rate has been halved from 12.3 per cent one year back to 6.1 per cent in the current year;

(e) if so, to what extent it has found in order;

(f) whether Government have considered monitoring of the prices on the basis of quotations from 55 selected retail/wholesale centres throughout the country; and

(g) if so, to what extent it has been done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Government has been monitoring the prices and availability of essential commodities in the market. As and when, the supply has fallen short of demand, the commodities have been imported to supplement the supply and there is no change in this policy.

(b) The Government has been monitoring regularly the prices of 10 essential commodities on day to day and on weekly basis;

(c) The Government takes the necessary measures for keeping the supply position of foodgrains comfortable in the market.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As per provisional estimates, the annual rate of inflation measured in terms of variation in the wholesale price index number came down from 12.3 per cent as on 25.6.1992 to 6.1 per cent as on 26.6.1993.

(f) and (g) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Modernisation of Singareni Collieries

3544. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to increase the production of coal from Singareni Collieries in Andhra Pradesh in 1993-94, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what are the plans for modernisation and more intense exploitation of the coal mines in operation under Singareni Collieries?