

Therefore, I urge the Finance Minister to intervene in this matter and give proper direction to withdraw the new rules and protect the six lakh LIC agents in particular and LIC as a whole. Thank you.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

Need to take preventive measures to check adulteration in edible oil ghee and other food items in the country

SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA (Punjab): Sir, the Government, no doubt, is aware of widespread practices being followed by unscrupulous and anti-social elements in the country to adulterate edible oil including the making of spurious *desi ghee* and other foodstuffs. Though there is a strict law to prevent such malpractices *i.e.* the Essential Commodities Act 1955 under which action is required to be taken by the States, for obvious reasons, the machinery in States to check this menace is at a standstill.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to impress upon the State Governments to activate the machinery so as to collect samples of edible oil, *desi ghee* and other foodstuffs including sweetmeat, etc. and an overall mechanism under the control of the Central Government be evolved.

Need to take measures to check the circulation of fake currency in the country

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA (Maharashtra): Sir, the Naik Committee, set up to assess the menace of fake currency, has said that counterfeit money in the range of Rs.1,69,000 crores is in circulation in the country. Fake notes of Rs.100, Rs.500 and Rs.1000 are affecting the economy of the country. As per reports, such notes are coming out even from ATMs and banks. Making, keeping, distributing or using fake currency is the handiwork of anti-national and anti-social elements and should be curbed by combined efforts of all concerned agencies of the Government.

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.