

at various important centres in the country have been fluctuating during the year, 1980.

(b) A statement indicating the retail prices of vanaspati and other edible oils in Delhi for the first week of each month from January, 1980 to November, 1980 is enclosed.

(c) In order to meet the gap between the demand and indigenous supply of edible oils, Government have continued the import of edible oils. The other steps taken include measures to revitalise the Public Distribution Sys-

tem and to increase the issue of oils thereunder to implement an 'action plan' for increasing the production of indigenous edible oilseeds/oils during the current year; to increase the production of popular oils like vanaspati; and to take more vigorous action towards dehoarding of stocks, enforcement of the various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 including orders issued thereunder and the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

Statement

Retail prices of Vanaspati and other edible Oils in Delhi

First week of months	Vanaspati	Ground-nut Oil	Mustard Oil	Gingelly Oil	Cocunut Oil
January, 1980	11.40	11.50	11.40	12.00	16.50
February, 1980	11.40	11.00	11.40	12.00	16.50
March, 1980	11.60	12.00	12.00	12.00	18.00
April, 1980	11.60	12.00	11.60	12.50	18.00
May, 1980	11.60	12.00	11.40	13.50	18.00
June, 1980	11.75	12.00	12.00	18.00	18.00
July, 1980	11.40	12.00	12.60	16.50	18.00
August, 1980	11.60	13.40	13.40	18.00	20.00
September, 1980	11.60	13.00	13.40	18.00	20.00
October, 1980	11.40	13.00	13.40	18.00	20.00
November, 1980	11.70	12.00	14.60	14.00	21.00

Sources : Weekly bulletin of retail prices of essential commodities issued by Dte. of E & S, Ministry of Agriculture.

Open market price of essential commodities

1805. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the present rates in free market of sugar, onions, edible oils, cement and other essential commodities; and

(b) what further steps are being taken by Government to bring down the prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJMOHAN MOHANTY):

(a) The retail prices of selected essential commodities including sugar, onions, edible oils and cement as on

28-11-1980 are given in Annexure. [See Appendix CXVI, Annexure No. 109].

(b) The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase production of various essential commodities, particularly of commodities in short supply. The public distribution system is being expanded and streamlined. Credit policy continues to be restrictive. The export of essential commodities is being regulated, while some essential commodities in short supply are being imported. From time to time, Union Government has been stressing on the State Governments to vigorously implement the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Orders issued under it as well as Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

Measures to effect economies in Air India

1806. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what measures Government have taken in the last few months to effect economies in Air India set-up and what has been the effect of these measures; and

(b) what was the financial loss suffered by Air India six months ago and what is the current loss?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) The following steps are being taken to effect economies in the expenditure of Air India:

1. Review of staff strength.
2. Reorganisation of Regional Directors' establishments at Sydney and Hongkong.
3. Closure of unremunerative offices.

4. Economy in fuel consumption to the extent possible.

5. Deferring of the aircraft acquisition plans.

6. Increase of frequency/introduction of Boeing-747 aircraft in place of Boeing-707 aircraft, wherever justified.

7. Rationalisation of route structure.

(b) The profit and loss figure of Air India will be known only after the Accounts for the year 1980-81 are finalised.

1807. [Transferred to the 19th December, 1980].

Measures to eradicate corruption in the public distribution system

1808. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has taken any measures to eradicate and control rampant corruption in many of the public distribution centres; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what is the effect of these measures and how have these measures mitigated the difficulties and hardships of consumers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJMOHAN MOHANTY): (a) and (b) Under the present set-up, the organisation and administration of the public distribution system is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The State Governments are, therefore, responsible for ensuring proper distribution of essential commodities to consumers through the outlets of the public distribution system. The powers under the provisions of the Essential Com-