

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) Yes Sir. The wholesale price index for edible oils was lower by 8.2 per cent in the week ending 8-4-78 as compared to the corresponding week last year;

(b) The large scale import of edible oils has had a sobering impact on the prices of edible oils in the country.

(c) The information is given in the *Annexure* (See Appendix CV, Annexure 21).

Development of tourism in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

272. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals have been submitted by the Government's of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh for promotion of tourism in these States during the next five years;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to construct any five star hotels for tourists at Nagpur, Raipur, Pune, Jabalpur or other important places in these States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) As recommended in the Tourism Ministers Conference held in August 1977, the Governments of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have prepared perspective plans of tourism development in their respective States. These will form the basis of discussion at the time of finalising the schemes of the tourism sector of the Five Year Plan of the two States for the period 1978-83.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Smuggling of foreign goods into India through Nepal

273. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government held any discussion with the Nepalese Prime Minister during his recent visit to India on the issue of checking the smuggling of foreign goods through Nepal borders into the Indian territory; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) No discussion was held with the Nepalese Prime Minister during his recent visit to India on the issue of checking smuggling across Indo-Nepal border. However, an Agreement of Cooperation to control unauthorised trade between the two countries was signed on the 17th March, 1978. The purpose of this Agreement is that effective measures should be taken and cooperation between the two Governments ensured to check unauthorised trade across the Indo-Nepal border. ^

Opening of branches by foreign banks

274. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the foreign banks which have been allowed to open their branches in the country during the last one year;

(b) what are the criteria laid down for allowing the foreign banks to open their branches in India; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure that the opening of branches in the countries by the foreign banks does not have any adverse effect on the functioning of the nationalised banks?