

†[Public Distribution System for
Nicobar Islands]

*157. SHRI NATHI SINGH:
SHRI NAGESHWAR
PRASAD SHAHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire trade in consumer goods, including petrol, required by the inhabitants of the Nicobar Islands is handled by one Yakubji Jadvet Trading Company; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce public distribution system for consumer goods for the inhabitants there in order to save them from exploitation by the said Company?]

वाणिज्य, तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) सरकार ने उचित दर की दुकानों के माध्यम से उपभोक्ताओं को आवश्यक वस्तुएँ उपलब्ध कराने की ओर ध्यान दिया है ।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have taken care to make essential articles available to the consumers through Fair Price Shops].

Amendment of the Gold Control Act

*158. SHRIMATI HAMIDA
HABIBULLAH:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
SAHU:
SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†[English translation.

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring forward a bill before Parliament to amend the Gold Control Act in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under Government's consideration at present to bring forward a bill before Parliament to amend the Gold (Control) Act in the near future.

Polyester filament yarn import scandal

*159. SHRI SANAT KUMAR
RAHA:
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the Business Standard of the 18th January, 1978 regarding a polyester filament yarn import scandal; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b) A statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Import-Export policy for 1977-78 initially provided for the grant of replenishment licences to Registered Exporters of fabrics, ready-made garments, etc., in the manufacture of which synthetic filament yarn was used, enabling them to import *inter alia* polyester filament yarn. This

provision was made in place of the high unit value scheme that had been in existence earlier, coupled with the abolition of the shopping list in the import policy for Registered Exporters.

With increase in the demand for this material in mid-1977, the market prices began to rise and at a meeting taken by the Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation on 18th August, 1977, the Chairman of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation drew attention to the prevailing high market prices. Accordingly, the policy for Registered Exporters was liberalised on 22nd August, 1977, deleting the linkage between import of this material with the exports of products mentioned above. This enabled Export Houses, as well as the manufacturers of such products, to import material directly.

However, representations were made to Government that this liberalisation could harm the interests of indigenous manufacturers of the same material because of excessive imports. Government was also keen to safeguard the interests of the new plant that was to come shortly into production in the cooperative sector namely, Petrofiles at Baroda. Consequently, a change was made in the policy on 2nd September, 1977 to enable actual users of this material, whether in the large scale or in the small scale or whether in the mill sector or in the decentralised sector, to secure their requirements through the State Trading Corporation and at the same time restoring the export-linked import of the material that existed prior to 22nd August, 1977. This was done to bring a better balance between demand and supply. The State Trading Corporation was instructed to arrange urgent imports of the material and the price of imported material sold by it was fixed at Rs 120/- per kg. for the 75 denier variety which is the most in demand with corresponding prices for other deniers.

As a result of the policy measures thus adopted, the market price for the 76 denier material which had risen to Rs. 192/ per kg. by the week beginning 22nd August, 1977, as against Rs. 124/- per kg. in March, 1977 started falling down and has decreased thereafter to about Rs. 123/- at present.

Institutional set-up to look into consumers problems

*160. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have an institutional set-up to look into the consumers problems; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL (a) and (b) Government is in favour of an institutional set-up to look after consumer interests. Government encourages consumers to form their own organisations in this behalf. Government also favours the existing voluntary consumer organisations to form a national federation of their own for directing, fostering and developing consumer movement in the country. A meeting of some voluntary consumer organisations was held on 27-1-1978 at which a Steering Committee was formed to work out the details of the structure and functions of the proposed national federation for consumers.

Changes in the Boards of Directors of the Air India and the Indian Airlines

*161. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI SHRUKANT VERMA:
SHRI RISHI KUMAR
MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: