

खाद्य तेलों और दालों का पकड़ा जाना

1277. श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही :
 श्री सैयद निजामुद्दीन :
 श्री कमलनाथ झा :
 श्री नत्थी सिंह :

क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि दिल्ली के व्यापारियों के यहां से अब तक खाद्य तेलों और दालों का कितना स्टाक केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा नियत अधिकतम सीमा से अधिक होने के कारण पकड़ा गया ?

†[Seizure of edible oils and pulses

1277. SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI:
 SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:
 SHRI KAMAL NATH JHA:
 SHRI NATHI SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state the details of the stocks of edible oils and pulses so far seized from the premises of dealers in Delhi on account of being in excess of the ceiling fixed by the Central Government?]

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल): दिल्ली के व्यापारियों के यहां से सरकार द्वारा नियत अधिकतम सीमा से अधिक होने के कारण खाद्य तेलों और दालों का कोई स्टाक पकड़ा नहीं गया है।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): No stocks of edible oils and pulses were seized from the premises of dealers in Delhi on account of their being in excess of the ceilings fixed by the Government.]

†[] English translation.

Smuggling of Gold into India

1278. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantities of gold were smuggled into India during the period from March to September, 1977; and

(b) if so, what preventive steps have been taken to check smuggling of gold into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Reports received by the Government do not show smuggling of huge quantities of gold into the country during the period from March to September, 1977. However, on account of high prices of gold in the domestic market as compared to the international prices, there is a considerable incentive to smuggling of gold. The Customs authorities have seized about 172 Kgs. of gold valued at about Rs. 1.02 crores during this period.

(b) In order to curb smuggling, the Intelligence and Preventive set-up have been strengthened suitably to collect intelligence regarding the activities of persons suspected to be indulging in smuggling of gold and to intensify checks at suspected places known for storage and disposal of gold. Besides, anti-smuggling measures including patrolling of vulnerable areas on the sea coast and the land borders, rummaging of ships and exercising greater vigilance at the airports, have been reinforced.

Jha Committee report on the rationalisation of tax structure

1279. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:
 SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
 SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the interim

report of the Jha Committee on the rationalisation of tax structure;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government have taken to implement the recommendations; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) Some of the recommendations made by the Indirect Taxation Enquiry Committee in its Interim Report were implemented in the 1977 Budget. These are as follows:—

(i) Conversion of specific rates of duty on synthetic rubber, paints and varnishes, aerated waters and certain electronic goods into *ad valorem* rates in tune with the general recommendation of the Committee for replacing specific duties by *ad valorem* levies, as far as possible.

(ii) Creation of new tariff items out of commodities which were covered under tariff item No. 68 prior to 1977 Budget and subjecting them to higher rates of duty of 10 per cent *ad valorem*. The specific items so dealt with in the 1977 Budget were acetylene gas, polishes and creamers, scouring powders and pastes, watches, clocks and time-pieces weighing machinery and appliances, certain specified types of tools and electric fittings.

(iii) The rate of duty under the omnibus levy under item No. 68 of the Central Excise Tariff was raised from 1 per cent to 2 per cent *ad valorem* in the line with the Committee's recommendation for considering a somewhat higher duty under Item No. 68.

(iv) Merger of auxiliary and basic duties of excise.

(v) On cotton fabrics, the rates were related to value irrespective

of the variety of the fabric or the nature and composition of the yarn used—in tune with the suggestion of the Committee for having a duty structure on cotton textile relatable to the value of the fabric rather than its physical specifications. (Some changes were however, effected on 15-7-77 in respect of fabrics in which the average count of yarn is 41s or more).

(vi) Duty on water coolers was reduced from 40 per cent to 20 per cent *ad valorem*. Also, duty on power driven pumps primarily designed for handling water was reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent *ad valorem*.

(c) Does not arise. However Part I of the Final Report of the Jha Committee, which has since been received, has been laid on the Table of the House on 16-12-1977. The same is being studied at present by the Government.

Import of mustared oil through private traders

1280. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his participation in a discussion on "Price Situation" organised by the Delhi Study Group in Delhi recently he made a statement to the effect that the system of importing mustared oil through private agencies needs to be reconsidered in the light of what has happened;

(b) if so, whether the question has since been considered by Government; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what decision Government have taken in the matter?