

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) to (c) Banks do not maintain separate data on the assistance given to "educated unemployed" as such persons can seek employment opportunities in all the fields to which the banks are now extending credit. Advances to such persons, however, would figure under the broad priority sector categories of 'Small Scale Industries', 'Professional and Self-employed' and 'Retail Trade and

Small Business'. The available information regarding the outstanding advances of public sector banks under these categories as at the end of June, 1973 and June, 1974 is given below:

Public sector banks' advances to the priority sector categories of Small Scale Industry, Professional and Self-Employed persons, and Retail Trade and Small Business.

Category	(Rs. in crores)	
	As at the end of	
	June, 1973	June 1974
(i) Small Scale Industries	644.86	868.33
(ii) Professional & self employed persons	21.21	29.74
(iii) Retail Trade & Small Business	94.76	117.68
	Data are provisional	

Public sector banks have evolved suitable procedures for pre-sanction scrutiny as well as for supervision of the credit extended to ensure their proper utilisation.

Smugglers against whom warrants of arrests have been issued

598. SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN :
SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of persons suspected to be dealing in smuggling and against whom warrants of arrests have been issued but are still absconding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Out of twenty persons against whom detention orders were issued by the Government of India under the provisions of the Maintenance of Internal Security (Amendment) Ordinance 1974, only Rawatmal Golyan has escaped arrest so far. In addition, there are others against whom detention orders have been issued by the State Governments, but who may not have been arrested yet.

Edible Oil from Soviet Union

599. SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has failed to life 10,000 tonnes of edible oil provided by the Soviet Union for the current year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b): Edible oil has not been purchased from USSR so far as the prices at which the oil has been offered so far were not economical.

Purchase of jute by Jute Corporation of India

600. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

la) whether it is a fact that Jute Corporation of India suspended purchase operations towards the end of September this year;

(b) if so, *the* reasons therefor;

(c) whether as a result thereof, prices of raw jute went down by more than Rs. 10;

(d) the amount of purchase made by the Corporation so far and the amount of money spent for the same; and

(e) the amount of funds allocated to JCI?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prices of raw jute increased steadily upto the 3rd week of September, 1974. Since then, however, there has been a decline in the Calcutta prices primarily due to better arrivals. Nevertheless, the prices have remained both in Calcutta and in the upcountry markets have not been below the minimum Support price.

(d) During the season, ICI has so far purchased around 3.80 lakh bales valued at about Rs. 15 crores.

(e) Jute Corporation of India has been given a share capital of Rs. 2 crores, a loan of Rs. 1 crore by Government. The Reserve Bank of India has allowed a credit limit of Rs. 18 crores. A further loan of Rs. 1 crore has been recently sanctioned to the JCI.

Equalisation of price of Steel, Coal and Petroleum Products

601. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the equalisation of the price of steel and subsidy to coal freight on long distance haulage has been abolished;

(b) the names of the countries where similar system is in vogue;

(c) whether the prices of petrol and petroleum products are proposed to be equalised similarly throughout the country; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) The freight equalisation fund for steel has not been abolished. There is no subsidy on the long distance haulage of coal by rail.

(b) Government is not aware if any such system is currently in vogue in other countries.

(c) & (d): The question was examined in the past by the Oil Prices (Shah) Committee and has again been included in the terms of reference of another Oil Prices (Krishnaswamy) Committee appointed in March, 1974.

Reduction of cloth prices

602. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any agreement between Government and cotton textile mill owners regarding reduction of prices of various varieties of cloth; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) In the discussions held with the representatives of the industry, they have been advised to reduce the selling price of cloth by at least an average of 25 per cent. Reports have, however, been received that the textile mills have started selling cloth with discounts upto 20 per cent on their ex-mill prices.