

185. Shri Amrit Lal Tangri, Amritsar.
186. Ram Lal Raj Kumar, Gehri Mandi.
187. Shri Lal Chand, S/o Bua Ditta, Gehri Mandi, Amritsar.
188. Shri Tilak Raj, S/o Lal Chand of Ram Lal Raj Kumar, Amritsar.
189. M/s. Ram Lal Raj Kumar & Co. group of Amritsar.
190. Sohan Lal Brothers, Amritsar.
191. Business/Godown/Residence of Ram Lal Raj Kumar, Gehri Mandi.
192. Shri Amrit Lal Jain, Gehri Mandi.
193. Hans Raj Amrit Lal Jain, Gehri Mandi.
194. Shri Shanti Sarup & Smt. Sharda Aggarwal, C/o Roshan Lal Sat Pal, Jullunder.
195. M/s. Roshan Lal, Jullunder.
196. M/s. Tilak Raj Aggarwal & Bros., Jullunder.
197. Shri Tilak Raj Aggarwal C/o above.
198. Shri Madan Lal Aggarwal, C/o above.
199. Shri Rakesh Aggarwal, C/o above.
200. Shri Parveen Aggarwal, C/o above.
201. Smt. Gian Devi Aggarwal (Locker).
202. M/s. Kishori Lal & Bros., Jullunder.
203. Shri Banwari Lal, C/o above.
204. Shri Ashok Kumar, C/o above.
205. Shri Kishori Lal, C/o above.
206. Shri Sudershan Kumar, C/o above.
207. Smt. Shakuntala Devi, C/o above.
208. M/s. Mohan Lal Surajbhan, Jullunder.

209. Shri Surajbhan, C/o above.
210. Smt. Veena Aggarwal, C/o above.
211. Smt. Kesra Devi, C/o above.
212. Shri Vinod Kumar, C/o above.
213. Shri Ram Paul, Prop. M/s. Ramnand Mohan Lal, Jullunder.
214. M/s. Vishwakarma Foundry, (Regd.), Phillaur.
215. M/s. Vishwakarma Foundry, Apra.
216. Shri Niranjana Das Dhiman.
217. Shri Prem Mitter.
218. M/s. Karam Narain Sudershan Kumar, Jullunder.
219. Shri Ramsaran Das, Manager & Prop. G. D. Iron Store, Jullunder.
220. Smt. Shanti Devi, C/o above.
221. Shri Sudershan Kumar & Smt. Shanti Devi (Locker.)

Cotton price

621. SHRI DEORAO PATIL :
SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO :
DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to prevent the downward trend in the prices of raw cotton to protect the interests of cotton growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereby; and

(c) what are the prevailing prices of raw cotton in various cotton growing States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b) As kapas prices are ruling substantially by higher than support prices recommended by the A.P.C. and are higher than the prices during the corresponding period

last year Government have not taken any decision so far, to intervene in the cotton market.

(c) It is understood that the price of kapas of 320 F variety in Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana where market arrivals have begun is about Rs. 300 per quintal, which is somewhat higher than the average prices for this variety in the last season. In Maharashtra, the guarantee prices being offered by the Maharashtra Government under the monopoly procurement scheme are on the average 30% higher than the corresponding prices last year.

Study Report on the issue of import licences to certain Pondicherry firms

622. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that some officials of the Import Trade Control Authority visited Pondicherry to make an "on the spot" study of the basis on which import licences were issued to certain firms there;

(b) if so, the names of the officials and the gist of their report; and

(c) what steps Government have taken on the report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Shri K. N. R. Pillai, Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Hd. Qrs., Shri M.F.R. Bijli, the then Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Madras, and Shri K. Raman, Dy. Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Hd. Qrs. visited Pondicherry. S/shri K. N. R. Pillai and K. Raman examined the report sent by the Controller of Imports and Exports, Pondicherry, on the basis of which licences to the Yanam and Mahe Merchants were issued.

Investments in States by L.I.C.

623. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report that appeared in the Hindustan

Times of the 15th November, 1974 to the effect that the percentage of premium income invested in the States by Life Insurance Corporation is less than all-India average;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a recent study on this subject has revealed this situation and if so, what are the main findings of the study; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Informal Group constituted by Finance Minister which, *inter alia*, went into the question of the pattern of investments of LIC with special reference to their region-wise distribution, observed that the percentage of the premium income invested in a few of the States was less than the corresponding All-India average. According to the findings of this Group, such regional imbalances were primarily because of the dependence of LIC's investments upon the existence of agencies in the States that could absorb and use sizeable sums of money. In States, such agencies are, State owned financial corporations, State Electricity Boards, State level cooperative financing agencies, Municipalities and Public limited companies. In some of the States such agencies are either non-existent or have not fully developed.

(c) In order to correct such regional imbalances the LIC has been asked to explore possibilities of devising new schemes, with the approval of the Planning Commission, which might suit the needs and institutional capacities of such States. In case the approach of devising new Schemes fails, the market borrowings of the States concerned should be so planned that the LIC gets an opportunity of taking up a larger share in them that what has been the case so far.

Further, the Ministry of Works and Housing, while making allocation of housing loans to State Governments will also take