

partly, in public interest, in respect of essential goods like fertilizers, tyres and tubes, patent or proprietary medicines, cement, vanaspati, sugar, baby food, milk powder, butter, metal containers for essential goods, some categories of diesel engines etc. Such relaxations were also permitted in respect of supplies of all kinds of excisable goods required for Defence purposes or for further production in other factories and in cases where representations were made on grounds like curtailment or stoppage of production, lack of storage space, etc.

(c) Government has not received any information or complaints regarding hoarding of goods by the trading community consequent on grant of these relaxations.

Proposal to link prices of raw materials and finished goods

922. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are preparing an index of prices of raw materials and prices of finished goods and working out a link between the two; and

(b) if so, what is the relationship between the cotton prices and the finished goods prices and what will be the fair price for cotton ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Rupee Trade between India and Bangladesh

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

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have decided to scrap the rupee trade and payment agreement between them and shift to convertible currency trade; and

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof ?

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

(b) The details and objectives are contained in the Protocol concluded between the two countries on 17-12-1974, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the Parliament.

Meals for airlines staff in the canteen of Airlines House, Madras

924. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD:

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:

SHRI VISHWANATHA MENON:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines authorities at Madras have recently stopped arrangements for meals in the canteen of Airlines House, Madras; and

(b) whether Government are aware that this has put the Indian Airlines staff, who have been taking meals from the Canteen to considerable difficulty ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Punishment to Airlines staff for participation in strikes

925 DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON:

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

(a) the number of employees and officers of Indian Airlines and Air India who