

ceiling on the prices of wheat at Rs 150/- per quintal for inter-state transactions in surplus States has been fixed by the Government of India after taking all the relevant factors into consideration. As far as Government are aware, there is no dissatisfaction on the part of the traders in general about this price ceiling.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in the price of vanaspati

178. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN :

SHRI GANESH LAL MALI:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR :

SHRIMATI SARASWATI PRADHAN :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of Vanaspati soared further to a peak level

of Rs 235 per tin of 16.5 Kg. in May this year as against 135 per tin in the beginning of the year;

(b) the reasons for such increase in price of vanaspati and the latest prevailing prices of this commodity; and

(c) whether Government propose to decontrol this commodity, if so, what are the details of the proposal and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA) : (a) and (b). Vanaspati prices are controlled by Government from time to time when shortages in production occur, the product commands premium which is unauthorised. State Governments who are incharge of enforcement have been periodically requested to take stringent action against hoarders and blackmarketeers. The penal provisions of the Essential Commodities Act have also been amended to enable imposition of severe penalties.

The current notified detailed prices of Vanaspati in the different Zones are as follows :

Rs. per Kg. (loose)

| North zone | South zone | East zone | West (M) zone | West (G) zone |
|------------|------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 9.71 | 9.69 | 10.09 | 9.79 | 9.58 |

(c) Presently there is no proposal to decontrol vanaspati.

Fraud in the production of vegetable ghee

179. SHRI J. S. ANAND : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not a single vegetable producing firm out of a total of 73 uses groundnut or mustard oil for its manufacture;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the firms have been using a Rajasthani oil called "food liqueur" mixed with a reducer oil which together cost Rs. 4.50 per Kg. only; and instead of using 32-gauge sheet iron, the manufacturers have been using 28-gauge sheet which is heavier than 32-gauge and thus depriving the consumer of about 250 gms worth of vegetable ghee for every tin of 16.5 Kg; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take against this fraud?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) Only 3 units in May and 7 units in June, 1974 out of the 73 working vanaspati factories in the country did not use groundnut oil in the manufacture of vanaspati. Permission for use of mustard oil in vanaspati manufacture was withdrawn by Government with effect from the 1st December, 1973.

(b) (i) Government are not aware of the use of any such oil mixed with cheap reducer oil by any vanaspati unit.

(ii) Manufacturers are required to pack vanaspati in tins which should conform to the prescribed I.S.I. standards, and the prices notified by the Government are for the net contents of vanaspati. No cases of violation of I.S.I. specification for containers have been reported to the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954

180. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :

SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:

SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 562 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th March, 1974, and state by when Government propose to bring a comprehensive Bill in Parliament for amending the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 so as to plug the loopholes that have been noticed in its working in the past and to make it more effective?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): The

Government propose to bring a comprehensive Bill during the current Session of Parliament for amending the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Committee on the working of D.D.A.

181. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of land in the Union Territory of Delhi have been soaring mainly due to profiteering policy pursued by Delhi Development Authority through public auction of lands;

(b) whether a team has been appointed to go into the working of DDA if so, what are its terms of reference and whether the team will go into the affect mentioned in part (a) above; and

(c) by when the team is expected to submit the Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) An Expert Committee has been appointed to make an overall assessment of the work of the DDA and to suggest further measures for the development of Delhi. The Committee will also review the policy in regard to the fixation of price and disposal of land for residential, commercial, industrial and other purposes.

(c) By the end of December, 1974.

Shortage of Vanaspati

182. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vanaspati is in short supply despite increase in prices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?