

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?