

The Reserve Bank of India has been following a fairly restrictive credit policy in respect of advances against sensitive commodities. Steps have also been taken to ensure more effective regulation and control over forward trading in various commodities and thus to prevent speculation. It is also the intention of Government to progressively eliminate middlemen, as for example in the case of the distribution of levy sugar. The Government's fiscal policy has attempted to raise resources in a non-inflationary manner and to curtail monetary demand through promotion of savings and mopping up of excess liquidity through larger market borrowings. Restraint in the matter of non-plan expenditure is also being exercised.

Annexure

Quarter	Consumer Price Index* (quarterly average)	Percentage change
1969		
July-September ..	218.0	..
October-December ..	215.3	-1.2
1970		
January-March ..	216.0	+0.3
April-June ..	222.3	+2.9
July-September ..	227.0	+2.1
October-December ..	228.7	+0.7
1971		
January-March ..	224.0	-2.1
April-June ..	225.0	+0.4
July-September ..	235.0	+4.4
October-December ..	238.0	+1.3
1972		
January-March ..	235.7	-1.0
April-June ..	239.7	+1.7
July-September ..	251.3	+4.8

*Base 1949-100.

TAKE OVER OF SHAW WALLACE COMPANY

*51. SHRI KALYAN ROY: SHRI N. G. GORAY;
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE;

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Hindustan Standard' on the 11th September, 1972 regarding "Consortium bid to take over Shaw Wallace": if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any investigation has been made into the matter and if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHU-NATHA REDDY): (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Standard on the 11th September, 1972 as well as to other news items on the subject? This matter will also be looked into in the course of Inspection under section 209(4) of the Companies Act, 1956 ordered by the Company Law Board.

INQUIRY INTO WORKING OF S.T.C.

*52. DR. K. MATHEW KURLAN: SHRI SITARAM KESRI: SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the group set up to enquire into the working of the State Trading Corporation has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of its findings and recommendations made; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) An Evaluation Team was set up to undertake a survey of functioning of the S.T.C. and to make an

assessment of the extent to which our goals have been achieved and the direction in which further strengthening of the organisations is needed as also to suggest ways and means of improving its performance. The report of the Team is under preparation.

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS

*53. SHRI PATIL PUTTAPPA:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA
SINGH: SHRI NAWAL
KISHORE: SHRI C. D. PANDE:
SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: SHRI
KOTA PUNNAIAH: SHRI K.L.N.
PRASAD: SHRIMATI SA VITA
BEHEN: SHRI BANARSI DAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance sought by each State Government in the current year for relief in drought affected areas and the amount sanctioned as loans and grant in each case; and

(b) the criteria adopted for sanctioning financial assistance in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXXXII, Annexure No. 4]

INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN THE COUNTRY

*54. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA
SINGH: SHRI KALI
MUKHERJEE: SHRI GANESH
LAL MALI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the investment climate in the country suffered a set-back following the take-over of the Indian Iron and Steel Company and Copper Corporation; and

(b) if so, whether Government have lately evolved some guidelines to tone up the investment climate in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) There has been no discernible set-back in the investment climate which can be attributed to the takeover of the Indian Iron and Steel Company and the Indian Copper Corporation.

(b) Government is keeping a close watch over the trends and whenever necessary, has been taking steps to improve the investment climate; and for the present there seems to be no need of evolving any guidelines in this regard.

IRON ORE EXTRACTED AND EXPORTED FROM BELLARY AND HOSPET

*55. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the amount of iron ore extracted for export purposes from Bellary and Hospet regions during the years 1970-71 and 1971-72 and the quantity of iron ore exported through Madras and Kar-wai Belikere ports during these years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The quantities of Iron Ore procured for export from Bellary/Hospet area during the years 1970-71 and 1971-72 and exported through the ports of Madras, Karwar and Belikeri are as

		(Qty-in lakh M. Tons)	
<i>(a) Procurement—</i>			
1970-71	30.70
1971-72	37.30
<i>(b) Exports—</i>			
Port		1970-71 (Qty)	1971-72 (Qty)
Madras	21.00	20.00
Karwar	2.60	2.80
Belikeri	2.60	2.50