

अपर्याप्त सम्भरण को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उपभोक्ता सहकारी भण्डार खोलने के लिए प्रोत्साहन दिया जाय ।

(घ) चौथी आयोजना में विहित कृषि तथा औद्योगिक उत्पादन सम्बन्धी कार्यक्रमों के अतिरिक्त कपास और तिलहनों के उत्पादन, जिसमें सोयाबीन तथा सूरजमुखी का उत्पादन भी सम्मिलित है, को बढ़ाने के लिए विशेष उपाय किए गए हैं ताकि इस कच्चे माल की पर्याप्त उपलब्धि बनाई रखी जा सके । इस बात का उत्पादन बढ़ाने की सुनिश्चित व्यवस्था करने की दृष्टि से भी उपाय किए गए हैं । आयोजना-भिन्न व्यय के नियंत्रण पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है । इस प्रकार के व्यय में पांच प्रतिशत की कमी करने के लिए चालू वर्ष में निदेश जारी किए गए हैं ।

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir. The wholesale price index of food articles for the week ended the 19th February, 1972 shows a decline of 3.2 per cent as compared to its level six months ago, that is, for the week ended August 21, 1971; the price index for cereals as a whole has come down by about 1.0 percent during the same period. Pulses prices however are some what higher; and sugar prices have advanced by 16.0 per cent. As against this, price indices of edible oils, fruits and vegetables, and fish, eggs and meat have recorded decreases ranging from 10.0 to 16.0 per cent. Prices of two major raw materials, cotton and oilseeds also show decreases of 17.0 per cent and 11.0 per cent respectively. A statement giving the wholesale price indices of essential commodities, together with the order of variations between August 21, 1971 and February 19, 1972 (the latest available) is enclosed.

t [ ] English translation,

[See Appendix LXXIX. Annexure No. 2]

(b) The Government maintains a close watch over the price trends in the economy and appropriate measures are taken as and when necessary. In view of the rising prices of sugar, arrangements have been made with the sugar industry for distribution of sixty percent of mills' production through fair price shops at about rupees two per kilogramme. Futures trading in gur, coconut oil and cotton seed, and trading in non-transferable specific delivery contracts in groundnuts and its oil were suspended in October 1971.

The Food Corporation of India has been authorised to undertake open market sales of wheat and coarse grains like maize and bajra to check the uptrend in prices of foodgrains in certain pockets.

(c) It is the policy of the Government to encourage the opening of consumer co-operative stores for ensuring adequate supplies of essential consumer goods at reasonable prices.

(d) In addition to the programmes for agricultural and industrial production as outlined in the Fourth Plan, special measures have been initiated to step up the production of cotton and oilseeds, including soyabean and sunflower to maintain adequate availability of these raw materials. Measures have been undertaken for ensuring higher steel production. Special care is being taken to keep non-plan expenditure under control; during the current year instructions have been issued to effect five percent economy in succe expenditure.]

#### REPAYMENT OF DEBTS TO USA

2. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : SHRI M. K. MOHTA : SHRI K. C. PANDA : SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE bo

pleased to state:

(a) what is the total debt liabilities to be repayed by India to the United States of America;

(b) whether it is a fact that the liabilities are being progressively liquidated; if so the details thereof; and

(c) what is the total commitments made so far by the United States Administration during the Fourth Five Year Plan and whether these commitments are being honoured by them; if not, what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha. [See Appendix LXXIX, Annexure No. 3]

(c) During the Fourth Plan period (beginning April, 1969), the United States Administration have made aid commitments so far to the extent of Rs. 591.72 crores. These commitments are being honoured by the US Administration, except for an amount of Rs. 65.69 crores relating to non-project aid, which has since been suspended.

Government of India considers that the action of the US Administration to suspend non-project aid is unjustified and inconsistent with the provisions of the relevant aid agreements with the United States.

#### DEBT BURDEN OF STATES

3. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Tamil Nadu have demanded an "Independent enquiry" into the problem of debt burden of the States; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Union Government with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of Tamil Nadu have been referring from time to time to the need for setting up a debt Commission for going into the problem of debt burden of the States. The Central Government have, however, been of the view that the appointment of a Commission would not really serve any useful purpose.

#### REHABILITATION OF WAR WIDOWS

4. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: SHRI K. C. PANDA : SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD : 2/LT. K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian women whose husbands, civilian and defence personnel, have been killed as a result of Indo-Pak conflict, periodical border violations or on account of injuries sustained in the war or border violations;

(b) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to ensure that these widows are properly rehabilitated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether *ex-gratia* payments and other concessions decided upon by Government have already been made and if not, what are the various factors responsible for the delay in payment to such widows ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) 2151 officers and men of the Armed Forces killed in the recent Indo-Pak conflict and border skirmishes are survived by widows. Regarding civilian Government employees and personnel of the para-military forces, information is being collected.