

FRENCH BANKS OFFER FOR ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

*447. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the French Bank stated (*vide* 'The Hindustan Times', dated the 12th October, 1966) recently in Delhi that the Bank was keen to extend its assistance to India for industrialisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI SACHINDRA CHAUDHURI):

(a) and (b) The Chairman of the Banque National de Paris is reported to have stated in a Press interview that the Bank was keen to extend its assistance in the new field which industrialisation had opened up.

Apart from the Press interview reported as above, no communication has been received by the Government on this subject.

GOLD SMUGGLING ON INDO-PAK BORDER

*449. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a change in the smuggling of gold on the western side of the Indo-Pakistan border after the last conflict with Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI SACHINDRA CHAUDHURI):

(a) and (b) From available evidence, it appears that after the last conflict with Pakistan there has been considerable reduction in smuggling across this border. During the period Janu-

ary to August, 1965—43 Kgs. of gold had been seized, while 2 Kgs. of gold was seized on this border during the period January to September, 1966.

INDIAN AID TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

*454. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what is the policy governing Indian Government's loans or aid to foreign countries.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI SACHINDRA CHAUDHURI):

The policy of the Government is to be of assistance to friendly countries in Asia and Africa in their efforts towards economic development.

RISE IN PRICES AFTER DEVALUATION

*455. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: SHRI M. S. OBEROI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been heavy increase in the prices of essential and industrial commodities after devaluation;

(b) if so, to what extent there has been increase in these prices to-date; and

(c) to what extent the steps taken by Government to check these prices have been successful?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI SACHINDRA CHAUDHURI):

(a) to (c) The general level of wholesale prices has shown a rise of 3.7 per cent. since devaluation and up to November 12, 1966, as compared to 7.7 per cent. during the corresponding period last year. A statement showing the price variations for selected commodities is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Index Numbers of Wholesale prices of selected commodities

(Base 1952-53 = 100)

	As on 4-6-66	As on 12-11-66	Percentage variation 4-6-66 to 12-11-66
(Provisional Figures)			
Food Articles	190.6	202.6	+ 6.3
Cereals	163.2	170.2	+ 4.3
Rice	165.5	168.0	+ 1.5
Wheat	139.9	158.6	+ 13.4
Jowar	199.3	187.2	- 6.1
Bajra	193.2	205.8	+ 6.5
Barley	211.3	225.3	+ 6.6
Maize	195.3	219.7	+ 12.5
Ragi	214.3	177.6	- 17.1
Pulses	168.6	207.4	+ 23.0
Gram	152.5	205.9	+ 35.0
Arhar	166.5	191.4	+ 15.0
Mung	184.2	208.0	+ 12.9
Masur	182.4	205.4	+ 12.6
Urad	177.3	228.2	+ 28.7
Fruits and Vegetables	187.4	219.4	+ 17.1
Milk and Ghee	190.3	198.0	+ 4.0
Edible Oils	306.2	285.0	- 6.9
Fish, eggs and meat	213.6	223.5	+ 4.6
Sugar	161.0	161.4	+ 0.2
Gur	175.9	239.4	+ 36.1
Coffee	133.3	142.4	+ 6.8
Betelnuts	332.2	324.0	- 2.5
Salt	138.0	152.8	+ 10.7
Liquor and tobacco	129.1	129.9	+ 0.6
Fuel, power, light and lubricants	158.9	161.5	+ 1.6
Industrial raw materials	223.3	219.9	- 1.5
Raw cotton	130.7	138.0	+ 5.6
Raw jute	273.5	254.2	- 7.1
Oilseeds	293.1	283.1	- 3.4
Rubber	21.71	150.0	- 30.9

(Base : 1952-53—100)

	As on 4-6-66	As on 12-11-66	Percentage variation 4-6-66 to 12-11-66
(Provisional Figures)			
Manufactures	158.4	162.4	+2.5
Intermediate goods	192.3	205.0	+6.6
Linseed oil	295.4	311.5	+5.4
Cotton yarn	147.4	157.7	+7.0
Rayon yarn	178.8	160.6	-11.2
Metals	285.9	298.2	+4.3
Finished products	152.8	155.4	+1.7
Mill cloth	141.5	147.6	+4.3
Handloom cloth	170.3	170.0	-0.2
Jute manufactures	154.3	142.5	-7.6
Woollen manufactures	192.3	210.6	+9.5
Metal products	190.1	192.7	+1.4
General Chemicals	123.8	131.1	+5.9
Soap	178.0	194.4	+9.2
Fertilizers	98.8	98.8	No change
Drugs and medicines	108.5	118.4	+9.1
Oilcakes	255.6	278.1	+8.8
Machinery	145.4	159.0	+9.4
Cycles	127.8	128.2	+0.3
Vehicles	133.8	143.7	+7.4
Rubber tyres and tubes	131.0	131.0	No change
Matches	158.8	158.8	No change
Leather shoes	121.1	121.1	No change
Cement	192.8	193.7	+0.5
Glass	122.1	129.3	+5.9
All Commodities	184.1	190.9	+3.7

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE PLANS

*456. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:
SHRI S. SUPAKAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING
AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether any new formula has
been evolved for allocation of Central
assistance to State plans; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI
ASOKA MEHTA): (a) and (b) A
statement is laid on the Table of the
House.

STATEMENT

In the context of the formulation of
the States' Fourth Five Year Plans,
the principles of allocations of Central
assistance to States have been consi-
dered in some detail. After discussion
in the meeting of the National Deve-