

made to secure increased quotas for items of export interest to India, still subject to restrictions.

7. On the trade promotion side, the State Trading Corporation, the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation, the Engineering, Cotton Textiles and Cashew Export Promotion Councils and the Tea Board have opened offices in West Germany, Belgium and Netherlands to explore the market for India's export products, in the countries of the Community. We have participated in several Fairs in these countries and have planned participation in 4 Fairs in 1966. Several delegations and sales teams of the Export Promotion Councils have visited the countries of the Community in the last 2 years for detailed investigation of the market. Some of the countries have also provided financial assistance for India's participation in exhibitions in their countries. Efforts are also being made to secure the services of technical experts from West Germany and Italy to advise some of our export oriented industries in the production of specified products, like components, spares and other engineering items, processed food and leather manufactures which can be exported to those countries. Engineering products offering possibilities for export to West Germany have been identified and special efforts are being made to arrange for their exports by getting West German importers interested. Expositions are being arranged in departmental stores to popularise our handicrafts and handloom products, processed food, tea, spices, cashew kernels, etc. The Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation has established contacts with steel mills in the Community for the sale of iron ore and manganese ore and has appointed agents in these countries for the sale of mineral ores.

DAMAGES CAUSED BY CROWD AT DEULTI STATION NEAR CALCUTTA

*102. SHRI B. N. MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a crowd of passengers had set fire to a first class compartment at Deulti station near Calcutta during the third week of May;

(b) whether the crowd also damaged the signals and the station building.

(c) if answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the details of the incident; and

(d) the total damages suffered by Railways on account of the incident ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The correct position is that some passengers entered a first class compartment of S.6 Down at Deulti station, made a slight cut in two cushions and attempted to set fire to the coir inside. The fire was immediately put out by station staff before any damage could be caused by the crowd. The crowd also caused slight damage to two glass panes and door shutters of the A.S.M.'s Office and some signal glass reflectors

(d) Rs. 104 (approximate).

STEPS TO CHECK SOARING PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

SHRI ABDUL GHANI :
SHRI RAM SINGH :
SHRI BABUBHAI M.
CHINAI :
*103. { SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :
RAJA SHANKAR PRATAP
SINGH :
SHRI JAGAT NARAIN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of essential consumer commodities in Delhi and in the country are soaring day by day;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check these soaring prices; and

(c) what were the prices of the essential consumer commodities like vegetable oil, soaps, etc., in Delhi and in various other parts of the country after the devaluation of the rupee ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : (a) and (c) Statements (Nos. I & II) indicating

retail prices in Delhi and index numbers of wholesale prices of selected essential commodities in other parts of India are laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Another statement (No. III) is laid on the Table of the House indicating the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to check rise in prices.

STATEMENT NO. I
Retail prices of Selected Commodities in Delhi

| Item | Unit | (Rs. per unit) As on | | |
|---|----------|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| | | 30-5-66 | 4-7-66 | 15-7-66 |
| 1. Mustard oil Kachi Ghani | Kilo | 4.50 | 4.25 | 4.20 |
| 2. Chillies (Patna) (medium) | Kilo | 5.00 | 5.50 | 6.50 |
| 3. Gur Pathwan (medium) | Kilo | 0.75 | 0.80 | 0.80 |
| 4. Milk buffalo (medium) | Litre | 1.10 | 1.20 | 1.20 |
| 5. Pure Ghee unsealed | Kilo | 10.50 | 10.50 | 10.50 |
| 6. Vanaspati ghee No. 1 | 500 gms. | 2.88 | 2.88 | 2.84 |
| 7. Dal Arhar Kanpuri (Superior) | Kilo | 1.20 | 1.20 | 1.25 |
| 8. Matches Tekka Brand | Box | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.07 |
| 9. Kerosene oil | Litre | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 |
| 10. Rexona Soap | Cake | 0.70 | 0.70 | 0.70 |
| 11. Sunlight soap | Cake | 0.65 | 0.60 | 0.60 |
| 12. Washing Soap 501 Bar | Bar | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.10 |
| 13. Bidi No. 22 (10 Biddies) | Bundle | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 |
| 14. Dhoti (Birla Mills Delhi) | Pair | 11.92* | 11.92 | 11.92 |
| 15. Saree (Birla Mills Delhi) | Each | 10.73 | 10.73 | 10.73 |
| 16. Shirting (DCM) 02/1908 | Metre | 1.41 | 1.41 | N.Q. |
| 17. Long cloth (DCM) 09/4068 | Metre | 2.24 | 2.24 | N.Q. |
| 18. Bed Sheet Each 86/9541 | Each | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 |

*Pertains to June 13, 1966

N.Q.—Not quoted.

Source—Delhi Administration Bureau of Economics & Statistics, Delhi.

STATEMENT NO. II
Index numbers of wholesale prices in India (1952-53=100)

| | 9-7-66 | 2-7-66 | 25-6-66 | 18-6-66 | 11-6-66 | 4-6-66 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Food Articles | 196.1 | 192.7 | 196.6 | 191.1 | 191.9 | 190.6 |
| Cereals | 167.5 | 166.2 | 165.0 | 164.6 | 164.0 | 160.6 |
| Rice | 169.5 | 168.2 | 167.5 | 166.6 | 165.8 | 165.8 |
| Wheat | 146.4 | 144.8 | 142.7 | 141.9 | 141.5 | 140.1 |
| Jowar | 190.4 | 190.8 | 194.5 | 199.6 | 199.3 | 199.3 |
| Bajra | 203.1 | 202.3 | 201.3 | 200.7 | 200.7 | 193.2 |
| Pulses | 182.5 | 181.1 | 178.8 | 171.0 | 168.9 | 168.6 |
| Gram | 179.3 | 176.9 | 172.9 | 154.9 | 152.5 | 152.5 |
| Edible oils | 308.7 | 304.7 | 306.5 | 304.2 | 309.9 | 306.2 |
| Groundnut oil | 326.4 | 316.7 | 318.6 | 312.7 | 322.7 | 313.3 |
| Sugar | 161.0 | 161.0 | 161.0 | 161.0 | 160.0 | 161.0 |
| Gur | 183.9 | 179.9 | 179.1 | 173.6 | 174.5 | 175.9 |
| Others | 220.2 | 222.2 | 221.2 | 223.0 | 216.1 | 219.4 |
| Tea | 204.4* | 203.2* | 203.2* | 203.8 | — | — |
| All commodities | 189.1 | 187.1 | 186.7 | 186.1 | 186.5 | 184.1 |

*Estimated

STATEMENT NO. III INDICATING THE STEPS
TAKEN OR PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN BY THE
GOVERNMENT TO CHECK RISE IN PRICES

(1) Along with the decisions to devalue the rupee, it was decided that the prices of foodgrains, fertilizers, kerosene, diesel oil and other petroleum products should not be allowed to increase. Accordingly, duties on petroleum products were suitably adjusted and provision is being made for a subsidy on foodgrains and fertilizers. To meet the shortage, arrangements have been made/are being made for larger

imports of copra, palm oil, sunflower and soyabean oil.

(2) Meetings were held by the Minister of Industry, the Minister of Railways and the Finance Minister with the principal manufacturers producing goods of common use. Full cooperation in holding the price line was promised by all concerned.

(3) A Committee of the Cabinet has been constituted and one of the functions of the Committee is to consider the steps for price stabilization.

(4) A Commissioner of Civil Supplies has been appointed to watch the price movements and distribution pattern of the under-mentioned essential commodities, to begin with, with a view to initiating any remedial action where considered necessary.

- (i) Foodgrains.
- (ii) Kerosene and diesel oil.
- (iii) Sugar.
- (iv) All vegetable oils.
- (v) Textiles.
- (vi) Drugs.
- (vii) Baby foods.
- (viii) Soap.
- (ix) Matches.
- (x) Paper & Stationery.
- (xi) Cycle tyres & tubes.
- (xii) Electric lamps.

5. A control room has been set up in the Office of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to collect information regarding supply position and price movement of these essential commodities in various parts of India.

(6) The question of bringing more commodities under the Essential Commodities Act is under consideration.

(7) The Central Government powers under the Essential Commodities Act have been delegated to the State Governments and Union Territories for regulating by licences, permits or otherwise the storage, transport, distribution, disposal, acquisition, use or consumption of any essential commodity; for prohibiting the withholding from sale of any essential commodity ordinarily kept for sale, for requiring any person holding any stock of any essential commodity to sell the whole or a specified part to the Central Government or State Government or to an officer or agent of such Government etc. The question of delegating the Central Government powers under the Act to the Governments of States and Union Territories for controlling the price of essential commodities is under active consideration. So far as foodstuffs are concerned such powers have already been delegated to the States.

(8) The All India Radio has been broadcasting fair prices fixed or authorised for the benefit of the consumers.

(9) The Consumers' Cooperative Stores are being set up to supply consumers stores to consumers at fair prices.

(10) Meetings have been held with the representatives of State Governments and Union Territories in charge of Civil Supplies to hold the price line.

(11) Meetings have also been held with the manufacturers/producers of essential commodities like Matches, paper and stationery, electric lamps, cycle tyres and tubes, baby foods, drugs and medicines, soap and toiletries and vanaspati. They agreed to indicate their retail prices on the packets and containers wherever possible to give adequate publicity about the wholesale and retail prices in the newspapers, to intensify their supervision over retailers and to increase production.

आग लगने से स्लीपरो के नष्ट होना

*104. श्री राम सहाय : क्या रेल मंत्र यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर-पूर्वी रेलवे के क्लटरबकगंज या किसी अन्य स्थान पर स्लीपरो के कारखाने में आग लगने से 15 लाख रुपए के स्लीपर नष्ट हो गए;

(ख) यदि हां, तो और क्या-क्या नुकसान हुआ;

(ग) क्या इस सम्बन्ध में कोई गिरफ्तारी की गई है; और

(घ) इस आग के लगने का क्या कारण था ?

†[DESTRUCTION OF SLEEPERS IN FIRE

*104. SHRI RAM SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sleepers of the value of Rs. 15 lakhs were destroyed in the fire that broke out at the Sleeper Plant at Clutterbuckgunj or some other place on the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, what other damage was caused;

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this connection; and

(d) what was the cause of the fire ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० राम सुभग सिंह) : (क) जी नहीं। क्लटरबक

† [] English translation.