

may be implemented and environmental improvements carried out in those areas where there are large concentrations of dhobis. Slum Clearance projects should be drawn up for construction of multi-storeyed buildings, which should provide for ghats and places of work for dhobis on the ground floor and for drying clothes on the back verandahs and on terraces in the case of *katra* belonging to the Corporation. The rent of residential units in these buildings should be fixed according to the principles of the Slum Clearance Scheme and of the non-residential units on the basis of their full cost.

(ii) Adequate number of dhobi ghats should be provided along the banks of the river Jamuna but a little away from the main stream. Every coloniser should be asked to set apart a site for a dhobi ghat. The ghat and ironing facilities should be located in a central place in the colonies, as far as possible.

(b) *New Delhi Municipal Committee Area.*—There is no problem of dhobi ghats and residential accommodation for dhobis in the New Delhi Municipal Committee area. When the existing dhobi ghats are demolished for using land according to the Master Plan, it would be necessary to evolve alternative arrangements for providing work places and residential accommodation for about 400 dhobi families for meeting the requirements of the New Delhi Municipal Committee Area. As regards new colonies, suitable provision should be made for the ghats and residential accommodation for dhobis and necessary planning for the purpose should be done now so that slums are not created subsequently.

(c) *General.*—The eligible dhobi families amongst the squatters on Government land should be provided with alternative residential accommodation as well as dhobi ghats in the Jhuggis and Jhonpris colonies.]

GOLD FOR GOLD BONDS

SHRIMATI TARA
RAMCHANDRA SATHE :
SHRIMATILALITHA
(RAJAGOPALAN) :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to

Starred Question No. 140 in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th November, 1965 and state what is the quantity of primary gold and that of gold in the form of ornaments received by Government against the fifteen year Gold Bonds ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): The breakup of subscriptions to National Defence Gold Bonds, 1980, received upto 25th November, 1965 is :—

	Kg.
Gold Bars (Primary gold) ..	1,726
Gold Coins	22
Gold Ornaments ..	372
	2,120

RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

392. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a heavy increase in prices of essential commodities since the Pakistani aggression; and

(b) If so, the steps taken to check the sudden rise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) Prices continued to rise upto about the middle of August; between then and the end of September, they declined. Since then there has been a rise, which is particularly sharp in the case of oilseeds and edible oils. Wholesale prices of major foodgrains have remained relatively stable. It cannot, therefore, be said that a heavy increase in prices has occurred since the Pakistani aggression.

(b) The price situation nevertheless is difficult and Government has, therefore, initiated an emergency programme for increased production of foodgrains during the *rabi* season. The procurement of foodgrains is being intensified and arrangements being made to extend rationing in principal cities. Prices of certain scarce materials have also been controlled under the Scarce Industrial Materials (Control) Order. The credit policy for the busy seasons aims at meeting the credit needs of priority sectors and at the same time restraining credit expansion in general in the interest of price stability.