

(a) whether prices are still showing an upward trend; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to check the rising prices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) The Wholesale Price Index-1952-53-100) went up from 139.3 at the end of March, 1964 to 143.4 on 16th May. Wheat prices have fallen with the arrival of the new crop, but prices of rice and other cereals have gone up.

(b) Wheat and rice are being supplied through an increasing number of fair price shops at controlled rates. The Reserve Bank of India has tightened selective credit controls to prevent the use of bank finance for speculative hoarding of essential commodities; forward markets are also regulated to check unhealthy speculation. The State Governments have been advised to regulate wholesale trade in foodgrains by enforcing the revised Licensing Order. Further steps will be taken as the situation warrants.

PRICE CONTROL ON CLOTH

76. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Cotton Mills Federation has demanded the scrapping of Voluntary Price Control Scheme on cloth; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b) The Indian Cotton Mills Federation have represented that it is no longer possible for them to carry on their responsibility with regard to the existing scheme of voluntary control of cotton textile prices. The representation is being examined.

77. [Transferred to the 4th June, 1964.]

78. [Transferred to the 4th June, 1964.]

BIRD AND CO.

79. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any reply from the Bird and Co. in respect of the show cause notices issued to the Company sometime back; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) and (b) The Customs authorities have received from Messrs. Bird & Co., replies to the show cause notices issued to them. Adjudication proceedings are in progress. The Enforcement Directorate have also received, from the Company, replies to the show cause notices issued to them in respect of alleged violations of the foreign exchange regulations. Further action is being taken by that Directorate.

RESETTLEMENT OF E. PAKISTAN REFUGEES IN BHIND AND MORENA

80. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to resettle East-Pakistan refugees in Bhind and Morena in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter and how many persons are proposed to be settled there?

THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI): (a) and (b) The State Government have furnished an outline of a scheme for reclamation of about 45,000 acres of ravine land in Bhind and Morena.

Districts for providing work initially and resettlement later, to about 5,000/6,000 new migrant families. The scheme is under examination.

INDIAN EXHIBITS AT THE WORLD FAIR

81. { SHRI P. ABRAHAM:
SHRI R. K. BHUWALKA:

Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian exhibits at the New York World Fair have been a success; and

(b) if so, the amounts for which orders have so far been received for different items?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Indian exhibit is now considered as one of the ten 'must see' exhibits in the New York World Fair.

(b) The value of the orders booked for handicrafts including jewellery and handloom textiles up to 24th May, 1964 is equivalent to Rs. 29,14,562, out of which, goods worth Rs. 11,14,562 have already been delivered. Further, an order worth Rs. 44.12 lakhs for the supply of made-up articles out of mill-made cotton textiles is now under active consideration. Also another 33 serious trade enquiries received for the supply of cycles, lathes, tools, fans, sewing machines, diesel generating sets, milling machines, foundry moulding machines, stainless steel wares, jute, coffee, tea, mica, cashew-nuts, food stuff, spices, leather goods, rayon, tiles, cigarettes, etc. are now under negotiation between the manufacturers concerned in India and the parties in United States and businessmen from other countries, who visited the India Pavilion in the New York World Fair.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES IN HASTINAPUR

82. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION be

pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have decided to rehabilitate East Pakistan refugees at Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI): A transit camp has been opened at Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh and about 500 families have been sent to the camp so far. It is proposed to disperse them from there to other places for purposes of rehabilitation.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AT BADLI

83. SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 44 in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th February, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the acquired land at the Badli Industrial Estate, on which Government do not propose to put up sheds, has since been developed; and

(b) if so, when applications for the allotment of plots will be invited from intending industrialists?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) When the development of the plots is complete.

MEDICAL COLLEGES IN INDIA

84. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 54 in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd April, 1964 and state:

(a) whether any criterion has been drawn up to scrutinise the requests for opening of new medical colleges in the States;

(b) the steps that are being taken to ensure uniformity of standards for the M.B.B.S. course in various medical colleges; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken on the request of the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences for