

(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.