

and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) Offers from thirteen firms were received by the State Trading Corporation for importing dry fruits from Iran. After examining the merits of all the offers one firm out of the thirteen was appointed as the business associate of the S.T.O. for effecting imports of dry fruit*.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF SILVER

271. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of silver has shown an increase after the issue of the Gold Control Order; and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken to check the prices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MOKARJI R. DESAI): (a) There has been an increase in prices of silver since about the middle of January 1963 on account of the seasonal demand for the metal and in sympathy with the rise in international prices of silver.

(b) The situation is being watched and such steps as may be required will be taken in due course.

ASSISTANCE TO BIHAR GOVERNMENT FOR FAMILY PLANNING

272. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state the financial assistance given to Government of Bihar during 1962-63 for family planning programme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHTLA NAYAR): The financial assistance given provisionally to the Government of Bihar during 1962-63 for family planning programme is T'3. 5-45 lakhs.

RURAL AND URBAN ELECTRIFICATION IN BIHAR

273. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of towns and villages in Bihar that have been electrified during 1962-63; and

(b) the total amount sanctioned for the above and spent during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b) The required information is being obtained from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PROPOSAL FOR WATER GRID SYSTEM

274. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to have a water grid system to connect all the rivers of the country; and

(b) if so, what is the total amount sanctioned for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) There is no specific proposal under consideration to interlink all the rivers in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

275. [Transferred to the 30th April, 1963]

काजू के व्यापार का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले शिष्टमंडल का प्रतिवेदन

२७६. श्री राम सहाय : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) काजू के व्यापार का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाला जो दो सदस्यों का शिष्टमंडल