

(b) whether any trials have been conducted as to its acceptability, and if so, with what results; and

(c) the places where it has been propagated and the places where it is proposed to be propagated?]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a). Yes, Sir. The flour known as 'paushtik atta' is a blend of whole wheat flour (75 per cent), edible groundnut flour (8 per cent), and tapioca flour (17 per cent). Its protein content is higher than that of whole wheat flour. The quality of protein is also improved due to mixing of two complementary vegetable proteins from wheat and groundnuts.

(b) Consumer acceptability trials have been conducted with satisfactory results.

(c) It has been propagated in Lucknow with the help of the State Government. Further plans for propagation are under consideration by the State Government and the Department of Food, Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

†[वैज्ञानिक अनुसन्धान और सांस्कृतिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री हुमायून कबिर) : (क) जी, हाँ। ७५% पूरा गेहूँ का आटा ८% मूँगफली का आटा और १७% टपिओका आटा मिलाकर यह 'पोष्टिक आटा' बना है। इस आटे में गेहूँ के आटे की बनिस्बत प्रोटीन की मात्रा ज्यादा है। गेहूँ और मूँगफली के पूरक वैजिटेबल प्रोटीनों को मिलाने के कारण इसकी प्रोटीन की किस्म भी बेहतर हो गई है।

(ख) खाने वालों की पसन्द के बारे में आजमाइशें कर ली गई और उनका नतीजा अच्छा रहा है।

(ग) लखनऊ में राज्य सरकार की मदद से इसका प्रचार किया गया है। राज्य सरकार और खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्रालय

† | Hindi translation

का खाद्य विभाग इसका और ज्यादा प्रचार करने की योजना पर विचार कर रहे हैं।]

श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी के इस विभाग ने पार्लियामेंट के सदस्यों को भी इस नमूने का थोड़ा थोड़ा आटा भेजा है ? अगर नहीं भेजा है, तो क्या भविष्य में भेजने का इरादा है ?

श्री हुमायून कबिर : यहाँ एग्जिबिशन में इस आटा के कुछ नमूने बनाये गये थे। अगर कोई मेम्बर पार्लियामेंट वहाँ मौजूद थे तो उनको शायद मिला होगा।

FALL IN THE EXCHANGE RATE OF RUPEE IN FREE MARKETS

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: 362

.SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a fall in the exchange rate of rupee in the various free markets;

(b) if so, the extent to which there has been a fall; and

(c) what will be its likely repercussions on foreign trade and other transactions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Quotations for the Indian rupee have fallen in several free markets.

(b) The extent of decline varies from market to market. In Singapore the decline since May 1959 has been about 28 per cent; the quotations in Hong Kong in January 1960 were about 32 per cent lower than in May 1959; in New York the rate fell only nominally. In Ceylon and Burma the decline comes to around 17 per cent and 13 per cent respectively, although

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Babubhai Chinai.

in both these countries the rate is well above the par value of the Indian rupee. The open market rate in Nepal has improved by 2.8 per cent.

(c) The decline in the free market rates does not affect in any way the authorised transactions, which form the overwhelming majority of foreign trade and other transactions.

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: What has been the extent of the fall in the value as a result of the demonetisation of the rupee in the Persian Gulf area and also due to the new fresh currency which has been introduced?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We do not have the figures for the Persian Gulf area and as the old currency has been replaced by the new rupee, the extent of the fall cannot be much. I do not know the exact figure.

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: In view of the fall in the value in several countries which have been indicated in the reply, may I know what steps the Government intends to take to arrest this fall?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It is not necessary to arrest the fall. That will be better for us, because there will be no smuggling in that case.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know whether Government have ascertained the cause for this fall especially in Hong Kong?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The demand for the Indian rupee in the unauthorised markets is less and that is why there is a fall. We are not concerned about this fall.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: If I heard the hon. Minister correctly, he said there has been a fall in Hong Kong and Singapore but the official rate continues. If the official rate continues, then may I take it that our trade with these countries has not suffered?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It has not suffered at all, except the smuggling trade.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister just now said that the fall is good because the smuggling is not there. Do I understand, Sir, that the official exchange rate operates to the detriment of our country? Otherwise, I cannot understand the economic theory which has been just trotted out.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I am sorry if the hon. Member does not understand economic theory. It is not my fault.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Well, I understand that part of it. If the fall in the exchange ratio is to our advantage, why then, Sir, is the official exchange ratio maintained?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The hon. Member does not make any difference between authorised transactions and unauthorised transactions. These are unauthorised transactions where the rate has gone down, because they are not able to get them converted into foreign exchange. If rupees are spent there without authorisation by these countries, they will not get back money from us for their currency. Therefore, the rates have gone down and that is because of the steps taken by us in the Persian Gulf area.

*363. [*The questioner (Moulana M. Faruqi) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2422 infra.*]

INCOME TAX PAID BY VIABLE UNITS OF MOTOR BUSES OF CHHATTISGARH

*364. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of income tax paid by the seven viable units of motor buses plying in the Chhattis-garh area of the State of Madhya Pradesh in each year from the year 1954 to 1959?