

the finished products are linked through a predetermined formula to El tanned semi-finished leather.

(iii) Joint enterprise arrangements for equitable sharing of profits and losses, under which the Community parties will invest not less than 26% in the capital of the Indian firm and the Community partners will establish a marketing company in the Community for the marketing of the output of the joint venture.

(iv) Technical collaboration agreements, where agreed fees or royalties are paid for period exceeding five years.

Government will consider the proposals for any type of collaboration on 'case-by-case' basis.

Steps to hold the Price Line

*14. SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO :

SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR :

SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI :

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what measures have been taken so far and are proposed to be taken by Government to hold the price line ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House:

Statement

The Government has from time to time, adopted measures, both long term and short term, for maintaining price stability, in the light of emerging trends. The recent price rise, noticeable between March 20, 1976 and July 10, 1976, is attributable partly to a revival of speculative and hoarding activities and partly to seasonal pressures. The Government has, therefore, initiated a number of measures, as part of a short term strategy, to increase supply, improve distribution system and curb speculative demand. These include :

(i) instructions to the State Governments to take stern action against hoarders and speculators and to take over hoarded stocks for public distribution,

(ii) release of additional quantity of 20,000 tonnes of non-levy sugar for August, 1976,

(iii) arrangements for the import of 1.1 lakh bales of cotton and synthetic fibres and negotiations for import of further quantities of cotton. Prescription of limits on the holding of stocks of cotton by traders and the mills,

(iv) ban on the export of HPS groundnuts and groundnut oil; and arrangements for the import of a substantial quantity of edible oils along with a raising of the obligation on the manufacturers of vanaspati to use imported oils upto 50 per cent of their total requirements and removal of restrictions on the movement of edible oils from important oil producing states,

(v) stepping of minimum margins by the Reserve Bank of India for advances against cotton from 8th July, 1976 and against oilseeds and vegetable oils effective from July 15, 1976.

These measures in combination with others already in force have produced wholesome effect on prices which have tended to decline. The latest available index of wholesale prices (1961-62=100) at 306.9 shows a fall of 1.2 per cent during the week ended July 24, 1976, over and above a fall of 0.7 per cent in the preceding week in reversal of the earlier rising trend. Nevertheless, Government is keeping the price situation under careful watch and will take additional steps as and when necessary.

Probe into the problems of Jute Industry

*15. SHRI HIMMAT SINH:

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the probe team appointed to look into the various aspects of jute industry has recommended immediate take-over of some jute mills which are either closed or are facing closure owing to mis-management;

(b) whether Government have seen the press report which appeared in the weekly 'Blitz' of the 3rd July, 1976 under the caption 'Jute Barons cripple Government Corporation'; and