

[Translation]

Monitoring Agencies to Promote small and Rural Industries

393. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATH-
ERIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up some special Monitoring Agencies to promote and strengthen the small and rural industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) A special monitoring agency as envisaged in para .1. of the policy measures for promoting and strengthening small, tiny and village enterprises laid in Parliament on 6.8.91 has not yet been set up.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Increase in the Prices of Essential Commodities

394. SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
SHRIMATI RITA VERMA:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA
KUMARI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM:
SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI RAM NAIK:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHALIA:

DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH:
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA
KAUR DEEPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of increase in the prices of different Essential Commodities as on December, 1991 and January, 1992;

(b) the step taken/being taken by the Government to check the price rise; and

(c) the results achieved thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A statement showing the percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Index of essential commodities during December, 1991 and January, 1992, is enclosed.

(b) and (c). The Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister reviews the supply and prices of essential commodities at regular intervals and takes appropriate action to correct the imbalances in the demand and supply. Towards this end, the import of palmolen against exim scrips through State Trading Corporation has been allowed and the State Governments have also been allowed to import Palmolein oil with foreign exchange earned by them. Efforts are also being made to augment the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country. The Public Distribution System has been revamped and extended to far flung areas, disadvantaged areas to help the poorer sections of the society in getting essential items at reasonable prices. Nearly 1700