

breeding ground of this population in Siberia and to build up the dwindling stock of the flock. Two Siberian Crane chicks were brought from Russia. before their import into the country they were subjected to full scale health checks in Russia. On arrival on 12.2.1993 these were taken to Bharatpur directly where arrangements for their separate quarantine were made. The two birds were released in the sanctuary on 26th and 28th February, 1993 after observing their health for more than a fortnight and after a proper medical check up and quarantine release based on health documents and veterinary doctor's certificate. There was, thus, no neglect of precautions necessary before release of imported birds into the wild. The wild flock, took off on 3.3.1993. The reared birds did not join the flock in migration. The experiment would need to be repeated over the next 3-4 years to get definite results.

(c) and (d). The Western Flock of Siberian Cranes has dwindled sharply due to disturbance in their breeding grounds in Siberia and in the range countries on their migration route and not due to any negligence on the part of officials of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. In a bid to augment the flock, the experiment of releasing the reared chicks among the wild is proposed to be continued in Siberia and in India.

Prices of Essential Commodities

*530. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Committee for monitoring the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Committee has been effective in controlling the prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES,

CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b). The Government has reconstituted the Cabinet Committee on Prices (CCP) on 12.7.1991 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Finance, with a view to review and monitor the prices of essential commodities. The Committee meets from time to time and takes appropriate steps to control the rise in prices within reasonable limits. The Committee comprises Ministers for Agriculture, Petroleum, Railways, Commerce, Food, Textiles, Industry and Civil Supplies. During the meeting infrastructural problems relating to distribution and movement of essential commodities from one place to another are discussed and remedial measures are suggested for improving the system. The decisions taken in the Committee meetings are implemented by all the concerned Ministers/Departments for controlling the prices of essential commodities. Also a Special Action Committee of Secretaries on Monitoring of Prices (SACP) meets under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary at least twice in a month and reviews the price situation.

(c) As of now, the prices and availability of essential commodities are satisfactory. The annual rate of inflation in terms of wholesale price index which was 16.3% during the month of September, 1991 declined to 13.6% in March, 1992 and further to 7.1% in February, 1993 and 6.8% as on 13.3.1993. in terms of Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial workers, the rate of inflation declined from 15.7% in September, 1991 to 13.9% in March, 1992 and further to 5.7% in January, 1993 (latest available).

[Translation]

Endangered Species of Plants

*531. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: