

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
 SHRI KALP NATH RAI:
 SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
 PATIL:
 SHRI M.S. PAL:
 SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
 SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD:
 SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW:
 SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK:
 SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA
 MURTHY:
 SHRI RAJENDRA
 AGNIHOTRI:
 SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY:
 SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:
 SHRI C. SRINIVASAN:
 SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA:
 SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL:
 PROF. VIJAY KUMAR
 MALHOTRA:
 SHRI C.P. MUDALA
 GIRIYAPPA:
 SHRI DHARMANNA
 MONDAYYA SADUL:
 SHRI SURESH
 KODIKKUNNIL:
 SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that prices of all the commodities and consumer goods including essential items of daily use have gone up during the last three months, in the wake of the outbreak of the Gulf war;

(b) if so, the extent of price rise;

(c) whether the Government propose to fix prices of essential commodities like foodgrains, edible oil, pulses, sugar and tea; and

(d) the details of other steps taken to bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b). A statement showing the percentage variations in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities between 10.11.1990 and 9.2.1991 is given below.

(c) Prices of some essential commodities like Rice, Wheat, Sugar and Edible Oils, etc. are fixed by Government for supply through the net-work of Public Distribution System.

(d) The Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in the prices of essential commodities. Both long-term and short-term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken broadly include steps to increase production of essential commodities, procurement and buffer stocking operation of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System (PDS), enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures, and augmenting domestic supplies through imports, wherever necessary, so as to check abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities.

STATEMENT

| Commodity | Percentage Variation in Wholesale Price Index |
|-----------|--|
| | 9.2.1991 10.11.1990 |
| Rice | + 3.2 |
| Wheat | +21.1 |

| <i>Commodity</i> | <i>Percentage Variation in Wholesale Price Index 9.2.1991 10.11.1990</i> |
|------------------|--|
| <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> |
| Jowar | +15.9 |
| Bajra | +36.9 |
| Gram | -3.4 |
| Arhar | -0.8 |
| Moong | + 4.7 |
| Masoor | +14.5 |
| Urad | +3.7 |
| Potatoes | -32.6 |
| Onions | +21.0 |
| Milk | +4.5 |
| Fish | -9.2 |
| Meat | +0.5 |
| Chillies | +12.3 |
| Tea | +1.8 |
| Kerosene | +0.1 |
| Atta | +11.1 |
| Sugar | +2.0 |
| Gur | -15.0 |
| Salt | +6.6 |
| Vanaspati | +9.3 |
| Gingelly Oil | +19.3 |

| <i>Commodity</i> | <i>Percentage Variation in Wholesale Price Index 9.2.1991 10.11.1990</i> |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> |
| Mustard Oil | -11.6 |
| Coconut Oil | +14.5 |
| Groundnut Oil | +23.2 |
| Cotton Cloth (mills) | +1.3 |
| Soap (Laundry) | Steady |
| Soap (Toilet) | Steady |
| Matches | Steady |
| All Commodities | +2.7 |

[*Translation*]

Production and Export of Cotton

769. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimate of production of cotton in the current year is lower than the production last year;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of cotton required by various cotton-based institutions of the country this year;

(c) whether in view of the domestic demand of cotton the Government propose to impose ban on its export; and

(d) if not, the quantity of cotton permitted for export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND

MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Cotton Advisory Board at its meeting held on 17th December, 1990 had estimated a production of 122 lakh bales of cotton during the 1990-91 cotton season against the production of 133.50 lakh bales during the 1989-90 season. However, cotton growers association estimates a higher figure of production of cotton for 1990-91.

(b) The Cotton Advisory Board has estimated the mill consumption of cotton at 110.00 lakh bales and the non-mill consumption of cotton at 7.50 lakh bales during the 1990-91 season at its meeting held on 17th December, 1990.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) During the 1990-91 cotton season