

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to withdraw the subsidies on these items of their own; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The fiscal correction and consolidation programme undertaken by Government calls for rationalisation of subsidies. For example, Export subsidies have been discontinued owing to changed circumstances. A Parliamentary Committee is presently examining fertiliser prices and subsidy structure.

Cotton Export Policy

2557. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some time back the Standing Advisory Committee on Agriculture has recommended that the export of cotton should not be less than 5 lakh bales every year;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be

taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). The Standing Advisory Committee on Agriculture (SAC) of the Ministry of Agriculture had recommended in July, 1990 that a minimum export quota of 10 lakh bales of cotton may be released every year.

(c) No final decision has been taken by the Government on these recommendations.

Inflation Rate

2558. SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the commitments made by the Government to the International Monetary Fund to bring down the rate of inflation during the last year and the extent to which the rate of inflation has actually come down; and

(b) the commitment made to the IMF to bring down the rate of inflation during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The inflation rates targeted for last year and the current year, as communicated to the International Monetary Fund, along with actual rate for last year are given below:-

Inflation rates (end-period) in terms of WPI

(Base: 1981-82 = 100)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Original Programme</i>	<i>Actual</i>
1	2.	3.
1991-92	9.0	13.6
1992-93	8.0	