

1	2	3	4	5
Potatoes	535.0	364.3	420.5	328.8
Onions	379.0	375.9	465.5	162.3
Tea	396.5	266.9	340.3	282.5
Sugar	227.2	218.8	205.9	176.9
Salt	457.4	244.1	241.1	214.4
Vanaspati	256.3	248.9	243.7	269.5
Mustard Oil	268.7	245.4	217.5	220.5
Groundnut Oil	306.5	259.5	251.4	233.3
All Commodities	298.6	275.9	251.9	231.8

Source : Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Industry

[English]

#### COUNCIL OF RURAL EDUCATION

1319. **Shri A. Venkatesh Naik :**  
**Shri R. Surender Reddy :**

Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Council for Rural Education; and

(b) if so, the details of objectives of such a council?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education and Department of Culture) (Kumari Selja) :** (a) and (b) The Government has set up a National Council of Rural Institutes w.e.f. October 19, 1995 with headquarters at Hyderabad. The objects for which the Council has been established (inter-alia) are to :

- (i) promote rural higher reduction on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary ideas on education so as to take up challenges of micro-planning for transformation of rural areas as envisaged in NPE 1986 (as modified in 1992);
- (ii) consolidate network and develop institutions engaged in programmes of Gandhian Basic Education and Nai Talim;
- (iii) encourage other educational and voluntary agencies to develop in accordance with Gandhian Philosophy of education;

(iv) strengthen teacher training facilities for Gandhian Basic Education;

(v) strengthen the content of all these institutions with emphasis on science and technology;

(vi) promote research as a tool for social and rural development; and

(vii) promote extension services to the community through micro level planning.

[Translation]

#### REMOVAL OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES

1320. **Shri Phool Chand Verma :** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of accident of the MIG-27 Aircraft which occurred due to hitting by birds flying over the illegal slaughter houses near Hindon Airport, Loni; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to remove all the slaughter houses being operated near Hindon Airport?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Arvind Netam) :** (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The District Authorities have issued an order for stopping slaughter of animals within a radius of 10 kilometres from Hindon Airport. The operation of the order has been stayed by Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad. A Central sector scheme is under consideration of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying for establishment of modern slaughter house at Ghaziabad and Loni. A carcass and by-products utilisation centre at Ghaziabad has also been sanctioned for preventing bird hit hazards to aircrafts.

[English]

#### PRICE OF COFFEE

1321. **Shri George Fernandes :** Will the Minister of Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of Coffee has come down by 21 percent between August, 1994 and August, 1995 while the cost of processed instant coffee has gone up by 103.2 percent in the same period;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to control the price?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System) (Shri Venod Sharma) :** (a) The Wholesale Price Index of Coffee has declined by 22.1% between August, 1994 and August, 1995 and the prices of instant coffee went up by 111.1% during the same period at Delhi.

(b) and (c) The decline in the production of coffee in the country as well as all over the world during 1994 resulted in rise in the prices of coffee during 1994. The prices have shown a declining trend in 1995. There is no proposals at present to control the prices of Coffee.

#### PRICE OF CONSUMER ITEMS

**1322. Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri :** Will the Minister of Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state :

(a) whether in absence of control of the Government over the selling prices of daily consumer items, the manufacturers are charging unrelated profits thereby hitting hard the common man;

(b) if so, whether there is any programme to protect the interests of the common man;

(c) whether the Government propose to undertake a study of some 100 selected items in different fields regarding their cost of production and the rates at which these are sold to the consumers;

(b) whether roasted Ground-peanut is selling, from bakery shops in Delhi @ Rs. 18/- a packet of 200 gm; and

(e) if so, whether the common man losses heavily?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (Department of Civil Supplies) (Shrimati Krishna Sahi) :** (a) and (b) Through administered prices of certain essential commodities like petroleum products (except lubricants) nitrogenous fertilisers, and partial control of prices of wheat, rice, sugar supplied through PDS, Government attempts their availability at reasonable prices through a chain of cooperative stores, Super Bazars etc. and the public distribution system. However, prices of other commodities, in general, are influenced by freeplay of their demand and supply in the market.

A constant vigil is kept on the prices and availability

of select essential commodities from time to time like edible oils, pulses etc. Whenever necessary, imports are resorted to in order to have an influence on their prices. In addition, the FCI has continued to conduct open market sale of rice and wheat for the past two years to moderate market prices of these commodities. Further, stern action is taken against hoarders and black-marketeers under the Essential Commodities Act.

(c) There is no much proposal under consideration of the Government.

(d) and (e) Prices of raw groundnut and groundnut oil are reflected in the wholesale price index series. There is no official data available regarding peanuts sold through bakery shops.

#### SPECIFIC FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL & TREE PLANTATION

**1323. Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde :** Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether any specific funds have been allocated/proposed to be allocated for Environmental and Tree Plantation purposes during the Eighth/Nine Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to the States for this purpose?

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Rajesh Pilot) :** (a) to (d) Afforestation and tree planting activities are carried out throughout the country under the Twenty Point Programme subject to the overall availability of funds under the Central and State Plans. The allocations for this purpose have been finalised by the Planning Commission, in consultation with the Ministry of Environments & Forests and the State Governments for the Eighth Plan Period (1992-97). Details of State-wise allocations for the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed. The overall Plan allocations, including annual allocations, are finalised as per the procedure laid down for this purpose, and the amounts utilised under the various approved and ongoing schemes of the Central and State Governments.

The Central and State allocations for environment and tree plantation have not been finalised for the Ninth Plan by the Planning Commission.