

demand drafts. Further, for widening their range of services, RRBs have been interalia allowed to issue guarantees on behalf of their customers, install lockers, issue drafts and effect mail transfers

- (ii) Seventy RRBs with disbursements of less than Rs. 2 crores during 1992-93 have been relieved from the service area obligations and have been allowed to extend loans throughout the area within their jurisdiction.
- (iii) RRBs have, subject to certain conditions, been allowed to relocate their loss-making branches to relatively better locations viz. commercial centres like market areas, village mandis, block and district headquarters etc. and to re-deploy concerned staff suitably.
- (iv) Equity support from Government of India to the extent of Rs 374 crores (approximately) has been provided to 102 RRBs and a budget provision of Rs 200 crores has been made in 1996-97 for this purpose
- (v) All RRBs have been advised to prepare bank specific development action plans to enable them to adopt a systematic approach for their turnaround
- (vi) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided the RRBs access to profitable avenues for investment of their non-SLR surplus funds in listed and other schemes of Unit Trust of India (UTI), fixed deposits in profit making financial institutions like the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Credit Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI), in bonds of nationalised banks and profit earning public sector institutions and in non-convertible debentures of reputed blue chip companies. Besides, the RRBs have been permitted by the RBI to deploy

a part of their surplus non-SLR funds in the credit portfolio of their sponsor banks through non-risk sharing participation certificates to be issue by the latter.

- (vii) Prudential accounting norms of income recognition and asset classification have been applied to RRBs in 1995-96. Provisioning norms would be applied in a phased manner from 1996-97 onwards.

[Translation]

Price Index

321 SHRI NITISH KUMAR ;
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA .
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister, of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the inflation rate has been under control in the country during the last few months;

(b) whether the wholesale price index, consumer price index and agricultural labourer price index substantially differ in the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of commodities taken into account for ascertaining the price index?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The difference in the three series of index numbers is largely due to the composition of their basket of commodities and their relative importance. The WPI reflects weekly movement of wholesale prices of 447 commodities of all traded goods. The CPI (IW) reflects monthly movement in retail prices of 260 commodities and services whereas the CPI (AL) with old base of 1960-61 covers retail prices of only 60 commodities. Commodity composition of each of the three index numbers is enclosed in the statement

STATEMENT

Commodity Groups under various Price Index Series

WPI	CPI	
	IW General	AL General
1	2	3
f Primary articles	I Food	I Food
(a) Food articles	II Pan, supari, tobacco and intoxicants	II Fuel and light
(b) Non-food articles		
(c) Minerals		

1	2	3
II. Fuel, Power, light and Lubricants (a) Coal mining (b) Mineral oils (c) Electricity	III. Fuel and Light IV. Housing (V) Clothing, bedding and footwear	III. Clothing and foot wear. IV. Miscellaneous and services.
III. Manufactured Products (a) Food products (b) Beverages, Tobacco and Tobacco products (c) Textiles (d) Wood and Wood products (e) Paper and paper products (f) Leather and leather products (g) Rubber and Plastic products (h) Chemical and Chemical products (i) Non-metallic mineral products (j) Basic metals, alloys and metal products. (k) Machinery and machine tools. (l) Transport equipment and products (m) Other miscellaneous manufacturing industries	IV. Miscellaneous	

Electoral Identity Cards

322 JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA .
 PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) whether a scheme was launched at the national level to issue electoral identity cards in order to check the bogus voting;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of the said scheme.

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the State-wise percentage of voters to whom identity cards have been issued;

(e) whether any time limit has been fixed to complete the said schemes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the total amount spent on implementation of the said scheme upto March, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) In August 1993, the Election Commission of India directed the Chief Electoral

Officers of all States (except the State of Jammu & Kashmir) to arrange issue of Photo Identity Cards to all electors in order to check bogus voting. The entire expenditure on the scheme was to be first met by the State Governments and later to be shared equally between the Central Government and the State Governments.

(c) and (d). The Election Commission which is primarily concerned with the scheme has been reviewing its implementation on the basis of weekly progress reports submitted to it by the Chief Electoral Officers of various States. However, towards the end of February, 1996, the Commission temporarily suspended till the completion of general elections, submission of progress reports with regard to implementation of the scheme. A statement giving the State-wise percentage of voters to whom defect-free Photo Identity Cards were issued till 23.2.1996 is enclosed as *Statement*.

(e) and (f) The Commission had originally fixed 30.11.1994 as the deadline for completion of the scheme. This deadline was, however, extended from time to time and it was last extended upto 31.3.1996. The fresh deadline has not yet been fixed by the Commission.

(g) A sum of Rs.423.3 crores has been released by the Central Government on the implementation of the scheme upto March, 1996.