

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Departments of Ocean Development, Electronics and Atomic Energy for 1985-86

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : I beg to lay on the Table.

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Ocean Development for 1985-86.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-804/85]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Electronics for 1985-86.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-805/85].

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Atomic Energy for 1985-86.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-806/85].

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Kakade Sambhaji Rao Sahebrao
(Baramati)

12.15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Situation arising out of the recent rise in price of essential and other commodities

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The situation arising out of the recent rise in prices of essential and other commodities and the steps taken by the Government in that regard."

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, this is a very important matter. You allow a discussion under rule 193 on this...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow it now. The Calling Attention is already admitted, Let the Minister reply.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : There was some improvement in the overall price situation in 1984-85. The annual rate of inflation declined to 5.8% in March, 1985 from 9.2% in the same month a year earlier. A notable feature of the price situation during 1984-85 has been subdued prices and easy availability of several essential commodities including cereals, edible oils and vegetables. It is indeed remarkable, Hon'ble Members will agree, that the wholesale price index of cereals moved down by 6.6% in the past two years ending March, 1985, There were, however, a few commodities the prices of which moved up during 1984-85.

2. After the presentation of the General Budget 1985-86, the wholesale price index is available for four weeks ending 13th April, 1985. During these four weeks the wholesale price index has moved up by 2.3%. A large portion of this increase has been due to Budget levies on or increase in administered price of some commodities. In the case of remaining commodities, there has been a mixed trend. The prices of some commodities have gone up while the prices of some other commodities have moved down.

3. Government attaches utmost importance to ensuring availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices. Both the Central and State Governments are monitoring the prices of essential commodities. The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of essential commodities, particularly those in short supply. The export of essential commodities is regulated keeping in view our domestic requirements. Some commodities are imported to augment domestic supply. The Public Distribution System is being expanded and its management is being improved to make essential commodities available at reasonable prices to the people, especially the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society. The