

consumers in the States of Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra is given below:

(Fig. in '000 tonnes)

(Data Provisional)

States	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Bihar	17505	17638	19458
Gujarat	14655	15179	15320
Maharashtra	20838	23811	24092

The above data indicates steady growth of coal despatches to Gujarat, Maharashtra and Bihar. Available information also indicates that coal supplies to these States during the year 1992-93 were adequate. Coal Companies have however been asked to step up coal supplies to the consumers in order to meet their full requirements.

Prices of Essential Commodities

*18. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH;

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the trend in the prices of essential commodities such as edible oils, sugar, spices, soaps and detergents including consumer manufactured goods during the last six months, month-wise, at retail level;

(b) what are the reasons for increase in the prices; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY);

(a) The details of the trend in the prices of essential commodities such as edible oils, sugar, spices, soaps and detergents including consumer manufactured goods during the last six months, month-wise at retail level are given at Annexure. (See Appendix CLXVIII, Annexure No. 1)

(b) Some of the reasons for increase in the prices of essential commodities are increase in the cost of inputs, raw materials, fertilizers, electricity, petroleum products, salary and wages of the workers increase in the cost of transportation and gap in the supply and demand of certain commodities.

(c) The Government has been taking appropriate measures on regular basis for containing the prices of essential commodities through provision of finances and credit, liberalisation of imports, improved infrastructure facilities, increased production, better distribution network and strengthening of the Public Distribution System.

Role of business in consumer awareness

*19. SHRIMATT VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a workshop on 'Role of Business in Consumer Awareness' was organised by ASSOCHAM on May, 27 1988;

(b) if so, whether the extent of benefits, arising from recent concessions offered by way of reduction in Excise and Customs duties, passed on to the consumer was reviewed and considered thereto, if so, what conclusions were arrived at; and

(c) what further steps have since been taken to ensure that the benefits of the concessions were passed on to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) A Workshop on the role of "Business in Consumer Awareness" was organised by ASSOCHAM on 23rd May, 1993.

(b) The extent of benefits arising from recent concessions offered by way of reduction in excise and custom duty passed on to consumer was also reviewed in the Workshop. ASSOCHAM conducted a survey to determine the extent * of benefits passed on by its members. This survey report was also discussed in the Workshop. The survey analysed (i) product category and the excise duty reduction (ii) post-and-pre-Budget excise duties applicable to various products; and (iii) the excise duty reductions and pre-and-post-Budget maximum retail price.

An analysis of the survey of 42 companies as reported by ASSOCHAM claim that the companies engaged in the production of industrial goods and products like refrigerators, jeeps, tractors, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, etc. have passed on the excise duty benefits. A few companies engaged in production of goods other than mentioned above was reported to have difficulties in passing on the excise duty concessions in full.

(c) Two meetings with the major trade and industry associations and representatives of Consumer Protection Organisations were taken by the Minister, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and

Public Distribution On 20th April and 7th June, 1993. In the meetings, the Minister stressed the need for the industry to respond positively to the government's gesture in granting excise and customs duty concessions.

All the concerned administrative Ministries were directed to persuade various sectors of industry under their charge to pass on the rebate to the consumers and to take appropriate action. The enforcement authorities of States and Union Territories were also advised to take stern action against erring industries and traders under the Weights and Measures Act. Wide publicity was also given through national and regional newspapers drawing attention of the manufacturers and retailers to charge only the revised reduced prices for prepacked commodities and to apprise them of the legal position. The matter is under the close watch of the Government.

सुपर बाजार में निगरानी कक्ष का कार्य-करण

* 20. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी : क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति उपभोक्ता मामलों और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सुपर बाजार में उसकी सभी शाखाओं की प्रतिदिन की बिक्री तथा अन्य जानकारी एकत्र करने के लिये एक निगरानी कक्ष कार्य कर रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसका व्यौरा क्या है तथा ऐसे निगरानी कक्ष में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों की पदवार संख्या कितनी है ;

(ग) इनके कार्य तथा प्रतिदिन बिक्री-वार और वस्तु-वार एकत्रित की जा रही सूचना का व्यौरा क्या है ;

(घ) इस निगरानी कक्ष में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध दर्ज की गई