

Findings of Standing Committee

689. SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1584 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th September, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the findings of the Standing Committee and when they were submitted to Government;

(b) when the report of Kelkar Committee was laid on the Tables of the Houses;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints about nexus between the producers and Kelkar Committee, Standing Committee and authorities considering their recommendations and are a part of conspiracy against the consumers of medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The recommendations of the Standing Committee are presently under active consideration of the Government. It would be premature to give the details at this stage.

(b) The report of the Kelkar Committee was not laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Certain representations/complaints had been received in the past on various aspects concerning DPCO 1987 including wrong inclusion/exclusion of bulk drugs under price control. The Standing Committee, after examining the representations/complaints regarding inclusion/exclusion, has submitted its recommendations to the Government which are under active consideration.

Cases relating to over-invoicing

690. SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred Question 1587 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th September, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the details of cases relating to **overinvoicing** which have been referred to Ministry of Finance for investigation during the last three years, yearwise in the field of bulk drugs and intermediates;

(b) what are the names of bulk drugs, intermediates and the companies involved;

(c) when each case was referred to Ministry of Finance and the details of cases where action has been finalised;

(d) when Government took up each matter with Ministry of Finance and what is the outcome; and

(e) what are the arrangements that exist in the Government to detect cases of **overinvoicing**?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The details of cases relating to overinvoicing which have been referred to Ministry of Finance for investigation during the last three years have already been given in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1664 answered on 1.8.1991.

(c) to (e) A number of complaints have been received alleging overinvoicing in import of bulk drugs/drug intermediates which have been referred to Directorate of Revenue intelligence for necessary action. This is an on going process and all these cases are at various stages of examination.

Retail prices of essential consumer items

691. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the retail prices of essential consumer items of daily life on Diwali day during 1989-90 and 1991;

(b) what are the reasons for upward trend in several items, item-wise;

(c) whether hike in procurement and levy prices are connected with the rise in prices; if so, the items involved and to what extent; and

(d) whether exports are related with the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The retail prices of essential Consumer items of daily life on Diwali day during 1989-90 and 1991 are not available. However, the retail prices of essential items during 1989-90 (16-10-1990) and 1991 (6-11-1991) around the day of Diwali are given in the Statement (See below)

(b) The increase in the prices of various selected essential commodities may be attributed to several factors. In the case of *cereals* particularly rice and wheat, the increase in prices was due to hike in procurement prices and consequent rise in their issue prices which set the trends for open market prices. Prices, of *pulses* continued to show a

rise due to persistent excess demand and near stagnation in the production of pulses in the past two decades. The sharp increase in the prices of edible oils may be attributed to shortfall in the domestic production for two successive years and inability of the Government to import large quantity in view of Balance of Payments problems. The rise in the prices of onions and potatoes was due to increase in transport cost as result of hike in prices of petroleum products in the wake of Gulf Crisis and hike in the prices of petrol in the Budget for 1991-92. Disruption in transport during August-October, 1990 may also be one of the reasons for price rise of some commodities.

(c) and (d) Any increase in procurement/support prices of 'paddy, wheat, coarse grains, sugarcane, pulses, oilseeds etc. and consequent increase in their issue levy prices affects the variation in their open market prices to a certain extent. While deciding about the limited exports of these commodities, due care is taken that the domestic prices of these commodities do not increase.

Statement

Retail prices of essential commodities at selected centres.

Centre/Commodities	(Rs. per kg)	
	1989-90	1991
	16-10-90	6-11-91
RICE		
Delhi	5.60	6.00
Patna	4.50	5.50
Bhubaneshwar	3.50	5.40
Bombay	5.00	6.40
Hyderabad	3.80	2.60
Madras	4.70	5.80
WHEAT		
Delhi	3.00	4.00
Patna	3.20	4.00
Bhubaneshwar	3.50	4.20

Centre/Commodities	1989-90	1991
	16-10-90	6-11-91
Bombay	3.80	5.40
Hyderabad	2.60	5.50
Madras	3.60	5.50
GRAM		
Delhi	11.20	10.00
Patna	10.00	9.00
Bhubaneswar	11.00	10.00
Bombay	11.80	11.20
Hyderabad	10.80	9.00
Madras	11.00	10.00
TUR		
Delhi	15.35	16.00
Patna	14.00	16.00
Bhubaneswar	16.00	17.00
Bombay	15.00	12.00
Hyderabad	14.00	15.40
Madras	14.50	20.00
SUGAR		
Delhi	9.15	10.00
Patna	9.00	8.75
Bhubaneswar	8.80	8.80
Bombay	8.30	8.80
Hyderabad	7.80	8.20
Madras	8.10	8.00
GUR		
Delhi	7.85	7.00
Patna	7.50	5.00
Bhubaneswar	7.00	7.50
Hyderabad	4.50	5.00
Madras	7.00	7.00
GROUNDNUT OIL		
Delhi	40.00	46.00

Centre/Commodities	1989-90	1991
	15-10-190	6-11-91
Jaipur	38.00	43.00
Bhubaneswar	42.00	48.50
Bombay	36.00	42.00
Hyderabad	33.00	38.00
Madras	35.00	38.00
MUSTARD OIL		
Delhi	30.75	35.00
Patna	31.00	39.00
Bhubaneswar	33.00	38.50
Bombay	32.00	40.00
Cuttack	32.00	38.50
Calcutta	32.00	36.00
VANASPATI		
Delhi	38.75	45.00
Patna	38.00	44.00
Bhubaneswar	41.00	48.00
Bombay	41.00	50.00
Hyderabad	39.00	46.00
Madras	40.00	46.00
TEA (Loose)		
Delhi	7.00	55.00
Patna	50.00	52.00
Bhubaneswar	50.00	55.00
Bombay	60.00	64.00
POTATOES		
Delhi	3.00	5.00
Patna	2.50	3.75
Bhubaneswar	2.60	3.60
Bombay	3.50	5.50

Centre/Commodities	1989-90	1991
	16-10-90	6-11-91
Hyderabad	2.50	5.00
Madras	3.00	6.00
ONIONS		
Delhi	6.50	6.00
Patna	6.00	5.75
Bhubaneswar	5.00	5.00
Bombay	4.50	4.50
Hyderabad	2.25	3.00
Madras	3.50	4.50
SALT (Loose)		
Patna	1.20	1.25
Bhubaneswar	1.50	1.50
Panaji	1.50	2.00
Hyderabad	0.90	1.10
Madras	1.00	1.00

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments.

Supply of Kerosene in Orissa

692. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been severe scarcity of sugar and kerosene in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to enhance the allocation of sugar and kerosene oil to that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Levy sugar allocations to most States/ Uts, including Orissa, are made on the uniform norm of providing 425 grams per capita monthly availability for the projected population as on 1-10-1986. A 5 per cent increase on these allocations have been given from August to De-

cember, 1991. Besides, additional festival quota has been given to Orissa along with October, 1991 quota. Free sale quota is also released in the country, every month.

In view of constraints on the availability of kerosene, it is presently not been found possible to given additional allocations of kerosene to Orissa, as requested for.

PDS supplies are supplemental in nature. Distribution within the State is managed by the State Government.

693. [Transferred to the 6th December, 1991].

Price of essential commodities

694. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: