

structure and input services for fodder development in the States;

(ii) Operational Research on Agro-forestry by National Wasteland Development Board in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(iii) Range grass/legume seed production at six locations by National Wasteland Development Board.

3. Bilateral/Multilateral Project

FAO/UNDP Himalayan Pasture and Fodder Research Network, 1986: The network undertakes use of forage legumes and crop rotations, use of fodder grasses, legumes and fodder trees for soil conservation, fodder tree and improved management of native pastures.

Reduction in subsidy on fertilizers

18. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to reduce subsidy on fertilizers and raise its prices; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken into consideration the impact of this measure on agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) The Government has been constantly reviewing the fertilizer subsidy and related matters. As and when any modification is made, the likely impact of such modification on agricultural production will be kept in view.

Foodgrains Production

19. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the foodgrains production in 1989-90 and the estimated production in 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH): The final estimate of production of foodgrains in the country during 1989-90 was 170.63 million tonnes. According to the present assessment, production of total foodgrains in 1990-91 is likely to be in the range of 176.5 to 178.5 million tonnes.

Supply of Rice and Edible Oil to Maharashtra

20. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV-RAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice and edible oil were not supplied to Maharashtra during December, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the demand received from Bombay for various foodgrains and the quantity supplied?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Allocation of rice to Maharashtra from the Central Pool for PDS for the month of December, 1990 was made as usual. A quantity of 52000 tonnes of rice was allocated for the month of December, 1990. However, no allocation of imported edible oil was made to States/UTs, including Maharashtra, during December, 1990 due to non-availability of adequate stock of imported edible oil with STC.

(c) The allocation of foodgrains for PDS made from the Central Pool is

meant for the State as a whole. The distribution within the State is the responsibility of the respective State/UT Governments.

Increase in the Prices of Essential Commodities

21. SHRI J. P. JAVALI:

SHRI JAGESH DESAI:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

SHRI SHIV PRATAP
MISHRA:

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH
THAKUR:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of all the essential commodities have gone up during the month of January/February, 1991 if so, the extent of increase itemwise;

(b) what is the percentage of increase as compared to that of the last year and the reasons for the increase; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to check the price rise, if so, the details thereof and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) A statement showing the percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities between 29-12-1990 and 2-2-1991 is given at statement I.

(b) A statement showing the percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities in the corresponding period of last year (between 30-12-1989 and 3-2-1990) is given at statement II.

The rise in the prices of essential commodities during the period is mainly due to factors like: (i) Short-fall in production of some of the essential items like oilseeds and pulses, (ii) upward revision of minimum procurement, support prices of both Kharif and Rabi Crop, such as Paddy, wheat, Pulses oilseeds, etc. (iii) upward revision in the prices of Petroleum Products first in the Union Budget for 1990-91 and subsequently on 14-10-1990, (iv) increase in railway freights and fares in Railway Budget 1990-91, and (v) other factors such as cumulative effect of high liquidity and increase in money supply sustained consumer demand, demand and supply gap in items like pulses and edible oils.

(c) The Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in the prices of essential commodities. Both long term and short-term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken broadly include steps to increase production of essential commodities, procurement and buffer stocking operation of food-grains, strengthening of Public Distribution System (PDS), enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures, and augmenting domestic supplies through imports wherever necessary so as to check and abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities.

Statement-I

Commodity	Percentage Variation in Wholesale Price Index
	2-2-1991 29-12-1990
1	2
Rice	+1.9
Wheat	+15.0
Jowar	+6.5
Bajra	+11.5