

February, 1991 published from Bombay regarding the complaint made by the Maharashtra Chief Minister of non-cooperation by N.D.D.B. and the withdrawal of supplies of Palm Oil; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NDDB under its Market Intervention Operation has almost doubled the supply of Dhara brand of edible oil in Maharashtra over 12 months from 1000 MT in January, 1990 to 2150 MT in December, 1990. The question of non-cooperation by NDDB does not, therefore, arise. The factual position explaining that NDDB has been operating according to the guidelines laid down by Government of India has been explained by NDDB in a written communication to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. As regards withdrawal of supply of palm oil imported oil is provided to State Governments for distribution through the public distribution system. However, the allocation of imported edible oil is meant to supplement the availability of indigenous oils and not to meet the entire demand of States/Union Territories. Allocation of imported edible oils through the public distribution system also depends on several factors like availability of imported edible oil with Government, demands of States/Union Territories etc.

Increase in the prices of essential commodities due to reduced ration supply

89. DR. BAPU KALDATE;

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI;

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM-
RAO PATIL;

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

whether it is a fact that reduction in the supply of essential commodities being supplied through ration shops has pushed exorbitant price rise which is affecting the people in general and low income group in particular and if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to increase the supply of essential rationed commodities to Maharashtra and other States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): There has been no reduction in the allocation of essential commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene from the Central pool except edible oils to States/UTs, including Maharashtra for supply through the Public Distribution System. While allocation of wheat was increased from 7.7 lakh tonnes in December 1988 to 9.55 lakh tonnes in February 1991, the allocation of rice was maintained at normal levels. Allocation of Kerosene in February 1991 was higher compared to the allocation in February last year.

In the case of levy sugar, allocation is continued on a uniform norm of 425 gram per capita monthly availability on the basis of projected population as on 1-10-86.

Allocation of these items for supply through the PDS is supplemental in nature and is not intended to meet the entire requirements of the States/UTs.

There has been some increase in the prices of some of the essential commodities such as wheat, groundnut oil, vanaspathi, masoor, arhar, gram etc. which may be attributed to seasonable factors as in the case of wheat; shortfall in production, as in cases of pulses and edible oils.

Apart from the measures on the broad macro-economic front such as efforts to reduce growth in money supply and fiscal discipline, specific measures have been taken by the

Government in respect of particular essential commodities under pressure. The measures taken by the Government broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities, effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System, monitoring of prices and availability situation, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures, and augmenting domestic supplies through imports, subject to overall constraints of foreign exchange.

Discount in Meals to Rural People in ITDC owned Restaurants and Hotels

90. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Tourism Development Corporation has announced 50 per cent discount in meals to rural people in the restaurants and hotels owned by it;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the criteria laid down for categorising and identifying the rural people;

(d) whether the rural people of one State would be able to enjoy the facility in another State; if so, how; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check misuse of the facility by urban people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The scheme effective from 25-1-1991 is applicable to rural

guests staying within a radius of 80 kms in the vicinity of the respective ITDC hotel/restaurant on establishing identity through an identity card/certificate, preferably with a photograph issued by the Village Pradhan and certified by the Sarpanch of the area. However, in the case of Hotels/Restaurants located within the Union Territory of Delhi, the distance restriction of 50 kms is not applicable, and any bonafide rural guest from anywhere in India can avail of this facility. In the case of family, the number of dependents who can avail of this facility will be limited to six members including the Head of the family. As per this scheme bonafide rural guests are entitled for a 50 per cent discount on specified meals, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, in one of the specified Restaurants of each ITDC hotel on two days in a week i.e. on Thursday and Friday

(d) The scheme of discount on meals to rural guests in the restaurants of ITDC hotels is admissible irrespective of the State/Union Territory of residence of the rural guest subject to fulfilment of conditions as mentioned in part (b) and (c) above.

(e) One of the pre-conditions stipulated in the scheme is production of proof of identity by the rural guest in the form of identity card/certificate issued by the village Pradhan and certified by the Sarpanch of the area to establish his/her normal place of residence. This measure is expected to check misuse of the facility by urban people.