

streams to the plains by river water and subsequent deposition along with the alluvial materials;

(iv) salt impregnated sand blown by sea wind;

(v) in-situ decomposition of soil material;

(vi) ingress of sea water; and

(vii) climate, geology, topography and hydrology either singly or in combination.

(c) and (d) The action to check the soil erosion and salinity have been taken through State and Central Sector programmes. By the end of 7th Five Year Plan, an area of 34 million ha. has been treated including the saline lands by various soil and water conservation measures.

### दूध की कीमतें

257. श्री राम जेठमानी : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में दूध के उत्पादन में निरंतर वृद्धि हो रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि निचले और मध्यम वर्ग की दूध खरीदने की क्षमता कम होने के कारण दूध का पड़बड़ बनाकर इसका निर्यात किया जा रहा है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने दूध के उपभोग को प्रोत्साहन देने हेतु इसकी कीमतों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कोई कदम उठाए हैं ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जय लाल वीरचन्द्र भाई शाह) :

(ख) जी, नहीं। देश में दूध और दूध चूर्ण के अधिक उत्पादन से तथा विदेश मुद्रा के सृजन की आवश्यकता की वजह से दूध चूर्ण के आयात का मुद्दा सामने आया है।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता है।

### Prices of essential commodities

258. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAN. DRAKANT BHANDARE; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what specific steps were taken by Government to contain the prices of various consumer goods the food, grains, pulses edible oils, spices, soaps, fuel and cloth;

(b) what were the comparative prices of each of these items during each of the last three months and the comparative corresponding prices for the last year; and

(c) the reasons for failure to curb and contain the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI S. AR. WAR HUSSAIN): (a) The Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in 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 operations of foodgrains, 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 (e.g. edible oils, pulses and petroleum products etc.) so as to check any abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities.

(b) A statement showing the month end retail prices of selected

essential commodities during September, 1990, October, 1990 and November, 1990 and for the corresponding months in 1989 is enclosed, (See Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 10].

(c) The over-all pressure on prices of essential commodities is due to cumulative effect of high liquidity and budgetary deficits, foreign exchange constraint, sustained consumer demand, and demand and supply gap in case of items like edible oils and pulses. However, as a result of various measures taken by Government the runaway increase in prices of essential items has been kept under check.

#### **Supply of Edible Oils and Vanaspati through PDS**

25ft, SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the unprecedented increase in the prices of edible oils besides short supply of various brands of groundnut oil and vanaspati;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in the prices of edible oils and vanaspati during the last one year month-wise;

(c) what is the percentage of shortage in the supply of edible oils and vanaspati through public distribution system and in retail market;

(d) what are the main causes for the sudden sharp increase in the prices of vanaspati and edible oils; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to meet the situation and make available edible oils/vanaspati to the consumers at a reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF FOOD  
AND

CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSAIN):- (a) The Government is aware of the increase in prices of edible oils. No report regarding short supply of groundnut oil and vanaspati has been received.

(b) A statement is enclosed. (See below)

(c) In the oil-year 1989-90 the supply of edible oils through PDS has progressively increased from December, 1989 to the end of oil year. Vanaspati is not supplied through PDS. No report of shortage of edible oils and vanaspati in the retail market has been received.

(d) The causes for the increase in the prices of vanaspati and edible oils apart from general rise of prices are lower kharif groundnut crop this year and limited import of edible oils on account of BOP constraints.

(e) Some of the measures taken by the Government are:

(i) Excise rebate allowed usage of minor/non-traditional oils;

(ii) The stock limits of edible oils (including hydrogenated vegetable oils) with wholesalers and retailers have been reduced;

(iii) The stock limits of edible oils and vanaspati with the producers have been halved. r - -

(iv) To improve the availability and acceptability of edible oils blending of one conventional edible oil with one refined non-conventional oil (e.g. soyabean, cottonseed, safflower oils) has been permitted;

(v) The permission to use upto 20 per cent expeller mustard/Rapeseed oil in the manufacture of vanaspati has been withdrawn to ease the price pressure on mustard oil. The price situation is closely monitored to take appropriate corrective measures.