

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

259. 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 HUSSAIN): (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.

(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.

Statement]

Statement shows month-wise percentage increase in wholesale prices of edible oils and vanaspathi.

	Groundnut oil	Mustard oil	Sesame oil	Cottonseed oil	Soyabean oil	Vanaspathi in 15 kg.
	Bombay	Kanpur	Bombay	Bombay	Delti	Delti (Lcw)
Dec., 89.	2.3	- 3.8	- 2.5	- 8.3	- 7.1	- 7.8
Jan., 90	7.8	Nil	- 27.6	8.5	5.3	7.3
Feb., 90	4.7	- 2.8	8.2	6.3	5.0	4.9
March, 90	8.2	5.8	1.9	Nil	4.8	3.9
April, 90	- 5.0	10.5	3.7	7.4	1.0	5.2
May, 90	5.3	- 0.2	- 13.6	5.0	7.0	1.9
June, 90	6.2	3.7	- 0.8	10.9	14.5	7.0
July 90	8.8	15.5	10.8	13.7	13.1	8.0
Aug., 90	0.6	3.1	- 7.5	- 3.4	- 3.2	- 3.0
Sept., 90	1.9	1.0	2.8	- 3.0	11.9	10.0
Oct., 90	- 4.4	3.0	- 1.2	1.9	- 13.3	- 1.9
Nov., 90	4.3	4.6	8.0	- 4.7	0.4	- 4.8

National Tourism Policy

—260. SHRI MURLI DHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of State for TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Travel Congress which met in New Delhi on September 17, 1990 has urged Government to enunciate a national tourism policy; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken to evolve and enunciate a national policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government policies relating to tourism matters have been

announced from time to time. These are constantly being reviewed and fresh policies decided with a view to ensuring a planned development of tourism industry in the country.

Foodgrain production

261. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current year represents bright prospects of farm yield in view of timely and adequate rains; and

(b) if so, how the estimated foodgrains and other agricultural yield separately for Rabi and Kharif Crops this year compare with the corresponding figures for the last two years?