

Foodgrains Production

206. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA.
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated production of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and cotton during the current agricultural year, what is the estimated shortfall or surplus, if any; and

(b) what are the measures proposed to be taken to dispose of the surplus or to meet with the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND. BHAI SHAH). (a) and (b) Final estimates of production of various crops of the year 1990-91, both for Kharif and Rabi seasons, have not yet become due. However, the target of production of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and cotton is given as below:

Million tonnes	
Cereals	161.5
Pulses	15.0
Oilseeds	18.0
Cotton	11.5*

*—Million bales of 170 kgs each

As far as foodgrains (cereals & pulses) is concerned, the country is nearly self-sufficient and only marginal adjustments by way of exports & imports may be resorted to balance the demand and supply.

There is a shortfall in the production of oilseeds, particularly groundnut this year, due to unfavourable weather conditions experienced in some of the principal growing States. To overcome the shortage of oilseeds, the Government has launched a Technology Mission on Oilseeds for the last four years. The Technology Mission has been entrusted with the responsibility for increasing the production of pulses also.

The production of cotton has shown significant increase during last year and this year; consequently, export of cotton has been considerably increased.

Increase in the prices of essential commodities

207 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL;

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA

SHRI N. E. BALARAM

KUMARI CHANDRIKA

PREMI KENIA.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL;

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA.

SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA.

SHRI RAMDES AGARWAL.

SHRI ANANTRAY DEV. SHANKER DAVE.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of essential commodities including foodgrains, pulses, edible oils etc. have gone up steadily since November, 1989;

(b) if so, what has been the percentage of increase during that period, month-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that essential commodities have been in short supply from time to time in the Fair Price Shops in different States during the said period;

(d) the month-wise wholesale price index and the consumer price index during the said period;

(e) what steps were taken or are proposed to be taken to combat price rise and make essential commodities available;

(f) the steps taken to contain the inflation and save the people from the high price rise; and

(g) whether there is any proposal to supply essential commodities at cheaper rates to the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) A statement showing the monthwise percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities from November, 1989 to November, 1990 is given in Annexure—(See Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 5).

(c) In a vast country like India where Public Distribution System network consists of over 360 lakhs Fair Price Shops occasional shortages due to local factors such as transportation failures etc cannot be ruled out. However, no reports of shortages of rice, wheat and sugar were received by the Central Government. There were reports of shortage of pamolein due to lack of import, and also of kerosene in some parts of the country.

(d) A statement showing the month-wise Wholesale Price Index from November, 1989 to November, 1990 and Consumer Price Index for

Industrial Workers from November, 1989 to October, 1990 (latest available) is attached (See below).

(e) & (f): The Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities and contain the inflationary trends. Both long term and short-term measures are, therefore, being taken for the purpose. Besides macro-economic measures to bring about financial and fiscal discipline, the supply management measures taken broadly include steps to increase production of essential commodities, procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System, 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 in order to check any abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities

(g) No, Sir. However, the Government is already supplying rice and wheat at subsidised rates to the people living in Tribal areas since December, 1985. This Scheme covers all the people, tribals as well as non-tribals, living in 191 ITDP areas in 17 States and 2 Union Territories.

Statement

Month	Wholesale Price Index (Base 1981-82-100)	Consumer Price Index (Base 1982-100)	%
November 1989	167.5	176	
December 1989	166.6	175	
January 1990	168.0	174	
February 1990	168.8	175	
March 1990	170.1	177	
April 1990	172.8	180	
May 1990	174.0	182	
June 1990	176.9	185	
July 1990	179.3	189	
August 1990	180.2	190	
September 1990	180.9	191	
October 1990	182.7	195	
November 1990	184.3	—	