

(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 percent. tage 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 & vast country like India where Public Distribution System network consists of over 3.60 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 Worker_s 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 rate_s 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 4982-100)	%
November 1989	167.5	176	
December 1989	166.6	168.0	175
January 1990			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	—	