

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

PREMJI 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