

manage the natural calamities. Detailed guidelines are provided in the Contingency Action Plans and Relief Manuals.

(c) and (d) The State Government are required to undertake necessary preparatory measures and update their plans/manuals keeping in view various factors including experiences gained. The Central Government, on its part, renders assistance whenever necessary.

(e) All necessary measures to provide relief to the affected people in the ground level are taken by the State Governments concerned and their efforts are supplemented by the Government of India as and when required.

Prices of Agricultural Crops

1258. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of agricultural crops have gone down for the last two years;

(b) if so, the prices of the main agricultural crops during the year 1998, 1999 and 2000; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that the agriculturists get remunerative prices for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) It may be observed from the enclosed statement showing Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers of major agricultural crops during 1998, 1999 and 2000 that the WPI numbers of various agricultural crops have fluctuated over the period (*See below*).

(c) In order to protect the interests of the farmers, the Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major agricultural commodities, such as rice, wheat, coarse cereals, oilseeds, pulses, cotton, jute, copra, etc., and organises purchases operations through public and cooperative agencies like, Food Corporation of India (rice, wheat and coarse cereals), NAFED (oilseeds and pulses), Cotton Corporation of India (cotton), Jute Corporation of India (jute) and Tobacco Board (Tobacco). Those commodities which are perishable in nature and locally grown or where the cost differential varies substantially from State to State are covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). The Government has also been using import tariff as an instrument for discouraging imports wherever necessary for protecting the farmers.

Statement

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers of agricultural crops during 1998, 1999 and 2000

(Base 1993-94 = 100)

Sl. No.	Commodity	WPI of 1998 (18.07.98)	Percent- age vari- ation over last year	WPI of 1999 (17.07.99)	Percent- age variation over last year	WPI of 2000 (15.7.2000)	Percent- age variation over last year
1.	Rice	141.4	3.7	172.2	21.8	171.4	-0.5
2.	Jowar	178.7	1.4	247.9	38.7	215.4	-13.1
3.	Bajra	147.2	-1.2	183.2	24.5	210.2	14.7
4.	Ragi	154.1	12.2	162.9	5.7	192.6	18.2
5.	Maize	147.7	-9.9	208.4	41.1	182.7	-12.3
6.	Wheat	146.6	10.5	170.3	16.2	179.1	5.2
7.	Barley	148.0	-8.1	175.0	18.9	189.4	7.6
8.	Gram	106.9	-7.4	111.4	4.2	133.3	19.7
9.	Arhar	184.9	48.6	179.4	-3.0	160.6	-10.5
10.	Moong	183.1	18.3	180.4	-1.5	188.1	4.3
11.	Urad	184.9	7.7	222.4	20.3	317.8	42.9
12.	Sugarcane	147.0	7.3	157.2	6.9	165.0	5.0
13.	Cotton	176.8	17.6	152.1	-14.0	157.8	3.7
14.	Groundnut in-Shell	156.8	14.1	137.0	-12.6	150.2	9.6
15.	Jute	112.7	17.6	107.8	-4.3	148.4	37.7
16.	Rapeseed/ Mustard	169.2	46.0	136.5	-19.3	123.7	-9.4
17.	Sunflower Seed	169.2	30.8	118.9	-29.7	141.4	18.9
18.	Soyabean	132.4	-10.7	105.3	-20.5	124.2	17.9
19.	Safflower/ Kardi	135.6	27.6	148.2	9.3	114.3	-22.9
20.	Tobacco (VFC)	192.4	17.6	165.0	-14.2	173.0	4.8
21.	Copra	120.3	-17.4	138.8	15.4	94.3	-32.1
22.	Sesamum/ Gingelly	148.9	36.7	155.8	4.6	139.4	-10.5
23.	Nigerseed	145.9	16.4	N.A	N.A	190.4	—
	All Commodities	140.9	6.9	143.7	2.0	152.5	6.1

N.A: Not Available.