

Prices of Edible Oil

3285. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to control the price of the edible oil which has been going up relentlessly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of the rise in the prices of different varieties of edible oils during the last six months and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM

NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Measures taken by the Government are as under:

(i) Various measures are taken by the Government to increase the production of indigenous edible oil-seeds.

(ii) The allocation of imported edible oils to States | Union Territories under Public Distribution System are adjusted according to lean and flush season to keep edible oil prices at reasonable level.

(c) The wholesale prices of different varieties of edible oils as on 30.5/86 and 29.11.'86 are as follows:.

(Rs. per tonne)

Item	As on 30-5-86	As on 29-11-86	Variation in prices
Groundnut oil (Bombay)	17524	18824	+1300
Mustard oil (Delhi)	14607	17609	+3002
Coconut oil (Cochin)	18800	28800	+10000
		(28-11-86)	

Some of the reasons for rise in prices of edible oils are decline in the production of oilseeds during the year due to drought and the impact of lean period starting from May.

Effects of power shortage in steel Industry

3286. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power shortage in the country has affected the production of steel as reported in the news in Hindustan Times of the 3rd September, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Because of fall in power generation of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) since the last week of June, 1986, DVC has imposed power restrictions on the steel plants. This has resulted in substantial loss of production of saleable steel at Bokaro and Durgapur Steel Plants and ingot steel at Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur..

The power supply position to the steel sector is under constant review