

**Steps to stabilise the price of .. vanaspati and other edible oils**

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Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of vanaspati and other edible oils are constantly rising in spite of Government's measures to stabilise price of vanaspati and other edible oils;

(b) if so, what is the comparative rise in the prices of vanaspati during the last six months (month-wise);

(c) what are the reasons for the incidental rise in the price of vanaspati and what further steps Government propose to take to stabilise prices of vanaspati and other edible oils in the country; and

(d) whether any meetings of the manufacturers have been called by Government in the matter; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJ MOHAN MOHANTY):

(a) and (b) There had been some increase in the wholesale price indices of edible oils including vanaspati during the past six months ending March 31, 1981, though from month to month there had been a variation in the prices of individual edible oils and in some cases in some months the prices had shown a decline. As regards vanaspati, during the last six months, the wholesale price index has fluctuated as seen from the following figures:—

September, 1980	..	204.8
October, 1980	..	204.1
November, 1980	..	208.2
December, 1980	..	207.6
January, 1981	..	218.4
February, 1981	..	224.2
March, 1981	..	235.0

(c) and (d) The main reason for the rise in vanaspati prices had been an increase in the cost of inputs, particularly of the indigenous raw oils used for vanaspati manufacture. As a result of discussions between the Government and two Associations of Vanaspati Manufacturers, the latter have agreed, on the 8th April, 1981 to announce and observe a voluntary price restraint and to sell vanaspati at an ex-factory price not exceeding Rs. 192 for a tin of 16.5 kg., inclusive of excise duty. The prices of small packs would be suitably revised. These prices are to continue till the end of Oil-Year i.e. the 31st October, 1981. The representatives of the two Associations have also assured to maintain production of vanaspati at the desired level so as to ensure its easy availability at all times. On its own part, Government would continue to supply imported oils to the vanaspati industry so as to maintain adequate production of vanaspati. To add to the further availability of edible oils to the consumers, increased allocations of imported oils are being made to the State Governments for issue through the public distribution system.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

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