

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has brought about a substantial change in the old system of computation of price index in the country;

(b) if so, whether the number of items has been increased in the new system;

(c) if so, the total number of items in the old and new systems respectively;

(d) whether base year has also been changed for computation; and

(e) if so, the base year at present?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir. The Government has introduced on 14.09.2010 a new Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series by shifting base year and revising commodity basket and weighting diagram.

(b) and (c) The number of items in the Commodity Basket has increased from 435 in the old series to 676 in the new series.

(d) and (e) The base year of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series has been shifted from 1993-94 to 2004-05.

Decontrolling the pricing of diesel

† *191. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decontrolled the pricing of petrol on 25 June and now a proposal to decontrol the pricing of diesel is also pending before Government;

(b) whether with the removal of Government control on the pricing of diesel, its price will instantly increase by Rs. 3 per litre;

(c) whether the rise in price of diesel will add to the problems of the farmers who are already in a bad state and increase inflation too; and

(d) if so, whether it would be appropriate to decontrol the price of diesel keeping in view the farmers and common people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) In the light of the recommendations made by the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kirit S. Parikh to advise on a Viable and Sustainable System of Pricing of Petroleum Products, the Government made

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the price of petrol, both at the Refinery Gate and at the Retail Level, market-determined with effect from 26th June, 2010. As regards Diesel, Government has taken a decision 'in principle' that the price of Diesel will be made market-determined, both at Refinery Gate and Retail Level. However, Government has initially increased the retail selling price of Diesel by only Rs. 2/- per litre with effect from 26th June, 2010 (at Delhi), with corresponding increases in the rest of the country.

Although the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are incurring an under-recovery of Rs. 3.43 per litre in Diesel (based on the Refinery Gate Prices for Second fortnight of November, 2010), at present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to make the price of Diesel fully market-determined.

(b) to (d) Since at present there is no proposal to make the price of Diesel fully market determined, questions do not arise.

Annual health survey in Maharashtra

†*192. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of Maharashtra where annual health survey has been conducted under the Annual Health Survey Scheme;

(b) the details of the outcome of the said survey and the shortcomings found in the survey;

(c) whether funds have been allocated to Maharashtra for the said Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) Annual Health Survey conducted by the Registrar General of India has not been taken up in the State of Maharashtra and no funds have been allotted to Maharashtra for the said scheme.

Immunization of 'Under Five' Children

*193. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.