

(b) The issues discussed during the meeting related to future steps for strengthening the Indo-Brazil scientific and technological cooperation including (i) Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology for 2012-14; (ii) Memorandum of Understanding for implementation of the Science without Borders programme in India; and (iii) Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Biotechnology, which were signed by the two sides on March 30, 2012.

(c) The bilateral cooperation has been strengthened through projects undertaken through the Indo-Brazil Science Council and India-Brazil Joint Commission on Science and Technology in the areas of Materials including Nano Materials; Infectious Diseases; Condensed Matter Physics; Mathematics; Computational Sciences and modeling; and Bio-energy.

(d) The other areas of cooperation identified by both the countries for cooperation for the period 2012-14 are: Biotechnology; Computer Sciences and ICT; Earth Systems Science including Ocean sciences and Climate change; Engineering; Health and Biomedical sciences; Material sciences and Nano-technology; Mathematics; Natural sciences; and Renewable energy including energy efficient and low Carbon technologies.

Variation between WPI and CPI

†*527. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a variation between the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has been noticed in the country during March, 2012;

(b) if so, the details in the regard;

(c) whether Government has found out the factors responsible for this variation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) A price index is an indicator of the average price movement over time of a fixed basket of goods and services. The composition of the basket of goods and services is made

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

keeping into consideration whether the changes are to be measured at retail, wholesale or at producers level, etc. The basket will also vary for economy-wide, regional, or sector specific series. At present, separate series of index numbers are compiled to capture the price movements at retail and wholesale level in India. The details of Consumer Price Indices (CPIs) and the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and their inflation rates for March, 2012 is indicated below:

Indices	Base year	March-12	
		Index	Year-on-Year Inflation (%)
WPI	2004-05=100	159.8	6.89
CPI for Industrial Workers	2001=100	201	8.65
CPI for Agricultural Labourers	1986-87=100	625	6.84
CPI for Rural Labourers	1986-87=100	626	7.19
CPI New Series (All India)	2010 =100	115.6	9.47

Differences between inflation rates measured in terms of various price indices occur due to the methodology and composition followed in the computation of an index. The gap between WPI and CPI is due to the fact that whereas the WPI indicates the price changes of wholesale transactions of a basket of commodities representing the entire economy, the CPI measures the changes in (retail) prices of goods and services. Additionally, the difference also lies in the base year adopted, the commodity basket selected, coverage, etc.

Incentives for power capacity addition

*528.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether incentives are being provided by Government to increase the capacity addition of power to meet the shortage of power in energy deficit States particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated by Government to the State Governments, especially to Andhra Pradesh, for the development of power sector during the last three years and the current year;