

places like city hospitals, bus stands and pockets inhabited by poor and vulnerable people in collaboration with Corporations and PSUs.

**Upward trend in the prices of essential commodities**

†1302. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of the essential commodities have shown an upward trend as compared to last year;

(b) whether the price monitoring cell studies and analyses the trends of the prices of important commodities through various sources and the information so collected and the status report is presented before the committee of secretaries and the Cabinet Committee on Prices;

(c) whether, in spite of these measures adopted by Government, the prices of most of the essential commodities have not shown a declining trend; and

(d) if so, the measures adopted to control the prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Prices of essential commodities have shown a mixed trend over the period of last one year. In respect of prices of wheat, atta, all the pulses except gram dal and onion, a declining trend has been noted, while prices of edible oils, gram dal, sugar, milk, potato and tomato have shown an increasing trend during this period. However, prices of some of these items such as sugar and gram dal have shown a decline and milk prices have remained more or less stable during last three months. The price monitoring cell studies and analyses trends of the prices of important commodities and the information so collected and the status report in this regard is presented before the committee of secretaries and the Cabinet Committee on Prices. Measures taken by the government to stabilise the prices of essential commodities are given in statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ No 1299 (part c)].

**Establishment of new sugar mills in Gujarat**

†1303. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any proposals from the Gujarat Government for establishing new sugar mills in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.