

Campaigns. The Group observed that the National Literacy Mission's Total Literacy Campaign approach with its transformative implications has resulted in positive impact on women, enrolment in primary education, sensitization of bureaucracy and in generation of social activists. The limitation of Total Literacy Campaign, as per the Group, is the fragility in literacy achievements and problems of relapse of neoliterates. The Group recommended that the objective of fully eradicating illiteracy be replaced by the objective of developing and deepening a learning society and that the Literacy Campaign and the Post Literacy and Continuing Education phase should be one continuum. The Group recommended greater attention to the Hindi speaking States.

The Report of the Expert Group has been circulated widely to generate discussion.

[Translation]

New Technology for Agricultural Production

*93. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural scientists have recently developed an advanced technology and system to increase the agricultural production by 200 to 300 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where this new technology has been implemented/Proposed to be implemented;

(d) whether land conservation and vegetational methods in cultivable and non-cultivable land consisting of dry and rainfed areas come under the above system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The Agricultural Scientists are pursuing agroclimate specific research for developing technologies for enhanced productivity. The success in achieving increased productivity is variable. With improved management upto 100% yield increase have been reported.

(b) Improved management practices are specific to different regions but the main components include use of improved cultivars, improved soil and water management practices, scientific plant practice etc.

(c) The 27 State Agricultural Universities are promoting extension technology programmes for implementing the proven technologies.

(d) and (e): Under non-cultivable and rainfed conditions the Soil and Water Conservation measures like mechanical and vegetative barriers, *in situ* rain water conservation practices and adoption of Agroforestry based farming system and improving cropping system for sustaining productivity through Water-shed programmes are being advocated.

Literacy Rate

*94. SHRI SHRAWAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to accord high priority to improve the literacy rate between males and females in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether any comprehensive plan has been prepared in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) According to 1991 census over 48 per cent of the illiterate population aged 7 years and above of the country reside in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Accordingly, priority is being accorded for the implementation of various literacy programmes in these States. Universalisation of elementary Education, Non-formal Education for school drop-outs and Adult Education programmes under the National Literacy Mission constitute the strategy for improving the literacy rate in the country both for males and females and particularly in these States. In addition to the on-going Primary Education Programmes, externally aided programmes are being taken up in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and some other States for strengthening and improving the primary school system. Under the National Literacy Mission also the focus is now on these four States. The target of NLM is to cover 345 districts all over the country by the end of the 8th Plan. Of the 282 districts which have already been covered by the total literacy campaigns, 93 districts are in the above four high priority States and 19 districts in Gujarat. All State Government have also been requested to prepare a perspective Plan for covering all districts under Total Literacy Campaigns.

In the programmes for Universalisation of Elementary Education emphasis is laid on enrolment and retention of the girl child in formal and non-formal schooling, recruitment of women teachers and removal of gender bias in the curriculum. In the literacy programmes under the National Literacy Mission, roughly 23 of the learners are women.

Prices of Essential Commodities

*95 SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

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

(a) whether the wholesale and retail prices of essential consumer items like wheat, rice, sugar, cereals, pulses, spices, edible oils and kerosene have shown rising trends since August, 1994.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have constituted any committee to monitor the prices of essential commodities;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendation made by the committee and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the essential commodities are made available to the public at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) A statement indicating the wholesale and retail prices of selected essential commodities since August, 1994 is attached.

(c) and (d) The Cabinet Committee on Prices (CCP) and the Special Action Committee of Secretaries for Monitoring of Prices (SACP) under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary review the prices and availability situation of essential commodities. Besides this, in January, 1994, the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution have constituted an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee for Monitoring and Forecasting of Supplies and Prices of Essential Commodities on regular basis under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs

& Public Distribution. This Committee makes recommendations for appropriate action by the concerned authorities regarding augmenting the supply of essential commodities like edible oils, pulses, foodgrains, vegetables, etc. by increasing indigenous production, appropriate distribution at various centres, additional imports and restrictions on exports as and when it is considered necessary.

(e) The Government has accorded the highest priority to controlling the rise in prices within reasonable limits. The three committees review the price scenario and advise the concerned authorities to take appropriate and timely action. Commodities which are in short supply are being imported to supplement their easy availability in the market. Imports of sugar, palmolein and cotton have been placed under Open General Licence (OGL). Public Distribution System is being strengthened and streamlined so that its benefits reach even the inaccessible areas. State Government are advised from time to time to take stringent actions against hoarders, black-marketeers and such anti-social activists under the Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations.

Statement

Month-End Wholesale and Retail Prices of Essential Commodities

Commodity/ Centre	WHOLESALE PRICES (PER QTL.)				RETAIL PRICES (PER KG.)				PERCENTAGE VARIATION	
	Aug.94	Sept. 94	Oct. 94	Nov. 94	Aug. 94	Sept. 94	Oct. 94	Nov. 94	Wholesale Nov. 94 Aug. 94	Retail Nov. 94 Aug. 94
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
RICE										
Delhi	625	600	615	625	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	Steady	Steady
Bombay	691	691	750	750	8.50	8.00	10.00	8.50	+8.5	Steady
Madras	670	702	692	692	7.50	7.80	7.80	7.80	+3.3	+4.0
Calcutta	650	670	660	670	6.70	6.90	6.90	9.30	+3.1	+38.8
WHEAT										
Delhi	405	405	425	425	5.00	5.50	5.50	5.50	+4.9	+10.0
Bombay	675	675	675	675	8.00	6.50	8.00	8.00	Steady	Steady
Madras	641	641	652	682	7.50	7.00	7.00	7.50	+6.4	Steady
GRAM DAL										
Delhi	1540	1620	1675	1455	18.00	18.00	20.00	10.00	-5.5	+5.6
Bombay	1675	1751	1865	1865	20.00	18.00	22.00	22.00	+11.3	+10.00
Madras	1735	1773	1910	1743	18.50	19.00	20.00	18.50	+0.5	Steady
Calcutta	1620	1680	1730	1600	16.00	18.00	18.00	20.00	+1.5	+21.2
TOR DAL										
Delhi	1325	1400	1350	1250	18.00	18.00	18.50	17.00	-5.7	-5.6
Bombay	1601	1601	1701	1701	19.00	18.00	20.00	20.00	+6.2	+5.3
Madras	1730	1777	2010	1995	19.00	19.00	22.00	22.00	+15.3	+15.8
Calcutta	1630	1640	1550	1350	17.00	18.00	19.00	22.00	-17.2	+29.4
SUGAR										
Delhi	1390	1450	1350	1220	15.50	16.00	15.00	13.50	-12.2	-12.9
Bombay	1370	1370	1245	1150	14.80	14.50	13.80	12.50	-16.1	-15.6
Madras	1298	1198	1135	1033	13.25	12.40	11.60	10.75	-20.0	-18.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Calcutta	1370	1385	1270	1240	14.00	14.30	14.00	14.50	-9.5	+1.4
VANASPATI										
Delhi	3833	3920	3860	4067	41.00	41.00	41.00	42.00	+6.1	+2.4
Bombay	3853	3973	3887	3880	42.00	40.00	43.00	43.00	+0.7	+2.4
Madras	3967	3967	3968	4000	42.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	+0.8	+2.4
Calcutta	4120	4120	4253	4200	42.00	44.00	43.00	47.00	+1.9	+11.9
GROUNDNUT OIL										
Delhi	4033	4667	4133	4267	46.00	46.00	46.00	47.00	+5.8	+2.2
Bombay	3930	3930	3660	3580	42.00	40.00	41.00	40.00	-8.9	-4.8
Madras	3800	3350	3400	3650	42.00	37.00	38.00	40.00	+3.9	-4.8
STARD OIL										
Delhi	3080	3133	3166	3500	34.00	34.00	34.00	37.00	+13.6	+8.8
Bombay	3653	3653	3687	3687	34.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	+0.9	+17.6
Calcutta	3300	3250	3160	3400	34.00	35.00	35.00	40.00	+3.0	+17.6
CHILLIES*										
Delhi	1900	2700	3100	3200	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	+68.4	Steady
Bombay	1800	1900	2050	1975	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	+9.7	Steady
Calcutta	2800	3000	3400	3200	6.00	6.00	7.50	7.50	+14.3	+25.0
KEROSENE (PER LITRE)										
Delhi	—	—	—	—	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	—	Steady
Bombay	—	—	—	—	2.53	2.53	2.53	2.53	—	Steady
Madras	—	—	—	—	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	—	Steady
Calcutta	—	—	—	—	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	—	Steady

SOURCE: (i) States Civil Supplies Departments

(ii) Dte of Economics & Statistics, D/o Agriculture & Cooperation

(iii) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

*N.B.—Chillies retail prices are in Rupees per hundred grams.

[Translation]

Production of Fruits & Vegetables

*96. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rank of India in production of fruits and vegetables in the World;

(b) the total production of major produces during 1993-94 and the area of land under cultivation of these items;

(c) the percentage of production level of major fruits and vegetables in the country as compared to other countries;

(d) whether there has been slow progress in developing seeds of high yielding and insect resistant varieties; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) India ranks second in the production of fruits and vegetables in the World.

(b) No data is available on area and production of major fruit and vegetable produces for 1993-94.

(c) The statement is attached.

(d) and (e): Substantial progress has been made in developing high yielding varieties in major fruits and vegetable crops. Some of these are also resistant to pests and diseases.

Statement

Crops	Percentage of share in World Production (1992)	
	India	Highest
1. Mango	58.86	58.86 (India)
2. Oranges	3.33	34.42 (USA)
3. Limes & Lemons	8.07	10.26 (Italy)
4. Banana	14.10	14.10 (India)
5. Apple	2.53	11.31 (USA)
6. Pineapple	7.81	18.11 (Thailand)
7. Potato	5.30	16.64 (China)
8. Tomato	14.50	14.50 (India)
9. Onion	17.79	17.79 (India)