

(b) if so, the details thereof with location ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b). Health being a state subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to open hospitals in their States for providing medical facilities to the people keeping in view their priorities and overall availability of resources. The Government of NCT of Delhi propose to open one 500 bedded and eight 100 bedded hospitals in the periphery of Delhi.

At present the Central Government has no proposal to set up a New Hospital in Delhi.

#### Prices of Essential Commodities

29. SHRI N.K. BALIYAN :  
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :  
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :  
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :  
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :  
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI :  
SHRI K.M. MATHEW :

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

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities like, wheat, sugar, bread, milk, cooking gas, edible oils and spices are showing an upward trend since 1993;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the percentage of increase in comparison to 1994 and 1995;

(c) the prices of these commodities during April 1993, April 94 and December, 1995; and

(d) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to check the prices of these commodities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) and (b). The increase in prices of certain essential commodities could be attributed to the gap between their demand and supply in the country, transportation problem, local distribution difficulties and increase in their input costs etc. The trend in the wholesale price indices of selected essential items are given in Statement-I.

(c) The Wholesale Price Indices of selected items during April, 1993, April, 1994 and April, 1995 are given in Statement-II.

(d) The measures taken by the Government to contain the prices *inter alia* include the incentives to farmers and the manufacturers to enhance their output, import of edible oils, strict action against hoarders and blackmarketeers under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The essential commodities are also being supplied at reasonable prices through cooperative stores and State Civil Supplies Corporations in addition to those supplied through the Public Distribution System and Revamped Public Distribution

System. State Governments have been requested to keep a close watch on the prices of essential commodities in their States/UTs.

#### STATEMENT I

*Trend in the wholesale price indices of selected essential commodities.*

Commodities	Percentage variation	
	1994 (Dec.) 1993 (Dec.)	1995 (Dec.) 1993 (Dec.)
Wheat	+ 8.8	+ 9.9
Sugar	+ 5.8	+ 8.0
Bread	+ 3.0	+ 13.8
Milk	+ 10.5	+ 11.2
Cooking gas (LPG)	+ 12.4	+ 12.4
Vanaspati	+ 6.2	+ 5.7
Groundnut Oil	+ 8.0	+ 28.7
Mustard Oil	+ 14.5	+ 21.3
Black Paper	+ 60.6	+ 81.4
Chillies (dry)	+ 90.5	+ 177.1
Turmeric	- 34.4	- 25.4

#### STATEMENT II

*Wholesale price indices of selected items during April, 1993, April, 1994 and April, 1995*

Base 1981-82 = (100)

Commodities	Index Numbers		
	Apr. 93	Apr. 94	Apr. 95
Wheat	235.4	271.5	272.4
Sugar	194.6	231.9	222.2
Bread	247.2	264.7	268.5
Milk	274.3	291.6	309.3
Cooking Gas (LPG)	208.1	233.8	233.8
Vanaspati	226.0	234.1	267.9
Groundnut Oil	189.3	244.9	308.2
Mustard Oil	186.3	215.1	253.1
Black Paper	202.8	339.8	555.3
Chillies (dry)	161.2	217.6	296.2
Turmeric	582.2	487.4	443.4

[English]

#### Food Corporation of India

30. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India is paying the immediate support price and other taxes imposed by Punjab Government while procuring paddy/rice;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the total amount paid by Food Corporation of India towards the tax during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently imposed similar tax on the purchase of rice and some other agricultural products;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Food Corporation of India has re-imbursed the same to the State Government on the rice procured from Andhra Pradesh during the current Session ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of Minimum Support price and taxes paid on paddy in Punjab during the Kharif Marketing Season 1995-96 are as under :-

	(Rs. per quintal)		
	Common	Fine	Superfine
M.S.P.	360	375	395
Mandi fee	- 2%		
Arhtia Commission	- 2%		
Rural Development Cess	- 2%		
Purchase Tax	- 4%		

The MSP and taxes on paddy as given above are also taken into account for fixing the procurement price of levy rice.

(c) The total amount paid by FCI in Punjab towards taxes for the last three years are as under :-

	(Rs./Crores)
1992-93	192.39
1993-94	267.93
1994-95	244.57

(d) and (e) . The Government of Andhra Pradesh have imposed Rural Development Cess at the rate of 5% on paddy with effect from 30.12.1995 through an Ordinance issued on 29.12.1995. Prior to that the taxes levied on paddy were 4% purchase tax and 1% market fee.

(f) The procurement price of levy rice in Andhra Pradesh has not so far been revised taking into account the newly imposed Rural Development Cess.

[Translation]

#### Pulses

31. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the gap between demand and availability of pulses has been increasing in the country for the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been drastic increase in the prices of pulses during these years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether pulses were imported to control the prices and if so, the quantity and value thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) and (b) . The production of pulses is nearly stagnant at around 14 million tonnes for the past few years. The requirement of pulses in the country is estimated to be around 19 million tonnes. Thus, there is a gap of around 5 million tonnes between demand and supply of pulses in the country.

(c) and (d) . The trend in the Wholesale Price Index numbers of pulses during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under :

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96*
Pulses	+ 28.8	+ 8.4	+ 8.6
Gram	+ 43.1	+ 10.3	- 42.2
Arhar	+ 14.0	+ 15.7	+ 41.2
Moong	+ 25.4	+ 8.2	+ 18.1
Masur	+ 18.3	+ 29.9	+ 49.5
Urad	+ 29.2	+ 64.0	- 3.5

\* Upto January, 96.

(e) In order to augment the supply of pulses, their imports have been kept under OGL and the customs duty on imported pulses was reduced from 10% to 5%. Details of quantity and value of imports of pulses for 1993-94 to 1995-96 are given below :

Year	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1993-94	6.28	567
1994-95	5.55	574
1995-96	2.86	388

(upto Oct., 95)

[English]

#### Forest Conservation in Kerala

32. PROF. (SHRIMATI) SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN :  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas identified as forest/reserve forest in Kerala;