

STATEMENT

Monthly Index of WPI and CPI(IW)

Month	WPI Base: 81-82	CPI (IW) Base: 1982	Absolute Difference	
1	2	3	4	5
Apr. 1993	234.6	245	10.4	
May	237.0	246	9.0	
Jun	239.8	250	10.2	
Jul	243.1	253	9.9	
Aug	247.0	256	9.0	
Sep	250.9	259	8.1	
Oct	252.2	262	9.8	
Nov	251.6	265	13.4	
Dec	251.7	264	12.3	
Jan 1994	252.7	263	10.3	
Feb	254.8	265	10.2	
Mar	257.6	267	9.4	
Apr	262.3	269	6.7	
May	265.4	272	6.6	
Jun	268.1	277	8.9	
Jul	271.3	281	9.7	
Aug	272.1	284	11.9	
Sep	273.2	288	14.8	
Oct	274.7	289	14.3	
Nov	276.2	291	14.8	
Dec	279.9	289	9.1	
Jan 1995	283.3	289	5.8	
Feb	284.7	291	6.3	
Mar	284.9	293	8.1	
Apr	288.4	295	6.6	
May	291.7	300	8.4	
Jun	292.6	306	13.4	
Jul	294.2	313	18.8	
Aug	296.1	315	18.9	
Sep	297.4	317	19.6	
Oct	297.9	319	21.1	
Nov	299.2	321	21.8	
Dec	297.8	317	19.2	
Jan 1996	297.4	315	17.6	
Feb	297.9	316	18.1	
Mar	299.4	319	19.6	
Apr	301.4	324	22.6	
May	304.1	328	23.9	

Outstanding of BHEL

1965. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal to recover the outstanding amount of Rs.1600 crores owed by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) through the Central Government's appropriation from States entitlements of 'Plan fund';

(b) if so, the modalities to be adopted for effecting the recovery;

(c) whether there is any resistance from States to this proposal on the ground that recovery of State Electricity Boards dues from States entitlements of 'Plan fund' would abridge their constitutional rights to central allocations; and

(d) if so, the alternative arrangements contemplated to liquidate SEBs dues to BHEL?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). As per the Government's decision, a total sum of Rs.509 crores (undisputed outstandings from SEBs/OPPs as on May '90) was paid to BHEL out of the plan assistance of the concerned states in four annual instalments from 1990-91 to 1993-94. After that, there has been no such recovery, through adjustments against allocation of Plan funds to the States.

(c) and (d). Recovery of BHEL's dues by way of adjustment against allocation of Plan funds to the states did not find support from the states on the ground that it would reduce the resources available for funding annual plan of these states thereby adversely affecting the implementation of the annual plans.

However, BHEL has been pursuing the matter with the concerned SEBs and the State Governments for the release of the outstanding dues. Department of Heavy Industry is also extending necessary help to BHEL in persuading the State Governments to release BHEL's outstanding dues from time to time.

Identity Cards to Voters

1966. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Identity Cards of the voters are being used for many purposes other than casting the votes in elections; and

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments through the Election Commission to enable the Identity Cards to voters latest by March 31, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Election Commission is reviewing the entire matter with a view to ensuring that identity cards are issued to all eligible electors within a revised time-frame. The Commission, however, has not yet fixed any revised deadline for issuance of photo identity cards to all electors.

[Translation]

Price Index

1967. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the increase in the consumer price index in the country during 1996;

(b) whether there has been a wide gap between the wholesale price index and consumer price index in the country during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The details of increase in the Consumer Price Index for industrial workers, CPI(IW) and the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for the last three years and the gap between the two series are given in the attached statement.

The CPI(IW) during the year 1996 has increased from 315 in January, 1996 to 328 in May, 1996. The gap between WPI and CPI(IW) ranged between a low of 6.6 to a high of 14.8 during the period April, 1993 to May, 1995. Thereafter the gap has increased to a high of 23.9 by May 1996.

(c) variation in the magnitude of rise between the two indices is due to the difference in the composition and relative weights of their respective basket of commodities. The WPI monitored on weekly basis monitors movement of wholesale prices of 447 commodities of all traded goods. The CPI (IW) reflects monthly movements in retail prices of 260 commodities and services. The high relative rise in CPI(IW) reflects the impact of increase in prices of food and food products which have a higher weightage in CPI(IW) than in WPI.

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[English]

Smuggling of Arms/Drugs

1968. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Arms and Drugs are pouring in India through various Indo-Pak boundaries; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to stop such inflow?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes. Sir. Reports of enforcement agencies indicate the Indo Pakistan border is vulnerable to smuggling of arms and drugs.