

cities and to consider issues like traffic management etc;

(b) whether N.T.P.C had also recommended establishment of a National Transport Commission and unified urban transport authorities; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Urban Transportation being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate schemes and get funds allocated for this purpose in their budgets in consultation with the Union Planning Commission. The Govt. of India have accepted in principle the recommendations in regard to the necessity to have a unified transport authority to coordinate activities of various sectors handling Urban Transportation in metropolitan cities.

The recommendation of the National Transport Policy Committee relating to the setting up of a National Transport Commission was not accepted by the Government.

[Translation]

Working Conditions of Workers

2091. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high powered Committee set up by the Ministry of Industry had visited several States and many workers organisations including the associates of the Khadi and Village Industries workers, had demanded a separate law to bring about improvement in the working conditions and

upliftment of unorganised workers, spinners and weavers, engaged in khadi and village industries;

(b) if so, the action taken in this direction since January, 1991; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Government propose to introduce a Bill in the Parliament in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The high power Committee visited the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and held discussions with the representatives of some of the Khadi Institutions and Khadi Boards as well as the workers' Unions to ascertain their views on various matters relating to the development of Khadi. Government received the Committee's Report in the last week of October, 1991. The Committee's Report does not mention about any demand by Khadi workers for a separate law. The Committee has not recommended for enactment of a separate law but suggested other measures for improvement in service conditions etc. of the workers.

Under the circumstances, there is no proposal for introduction of a Bill in the Parliament in this regard.

[English]

Rise in consumer price Index

2092. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any increase in consumer price index is recorded by the end of October 1991 in comparison to the quarters ending June, 91, March 1991, December, 90, October 1990 and June 1990;

(b) if so, the rate of increase;

(c) the reasons for such increase; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to keep the prices under check?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). The latest Consumer Price Index Numbers (for Industrial Workers) are available for the month of September, 1991. The variations in the Index in the quarter ending September, 1991 in comparison to the quarters ending June 1991, March, 1991, December, 1990, October, 1990 and June, 1990 are as follows:

| <i>Quarter ending</i> | <i>Variation</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| September, 1991 | + 5.7% |
| June, 1991 | + 4.0% |
| March, 1991 | +1.0% |
| December, 1990 | + 4.2% |
| October, 1990 | + 3.2% |
| June, 1990 | + 4.5% |

(c) The rise in prices of some of essential commodities may be attributed to upward revision of minimum support prices of both Kharif and Rabi crops (such a Paddy, Wheat, Pulses and oil seeds etc.), upward revision of Petroleum Products, demand and supply gap in item like pulses, cumulative effect of increase in money supply, etc.

(d) The present Government attaches the highest priority to contain price rise within reasonable limits. Efforts are being made to restrain the growth in money supply, effect demand management of 'sensitive com-

modities', strengthening and streamlining the Public Distribution System, strict action against hoarders and profiteers and provision of incentives for higher production in the medium term. With a view of monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supply, the Government have constituted a Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister. The Government has already released 3 lakh tonnes of wheat in the open market sale and has imported palmolein oil for distribution through the Public Distribution net work.

Declaration of deep sea fishing as a Agro-Based Industry

2093. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to declare deep sea fishing as an Agro-based industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to extend financial assistance to the sick deep-sea fishing units for their revival; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO):

(a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Ltd. is implementing a scheme to provide rehabilitation relief to sick deep sea fishing units. Salient features of the scheme are given in the statement given below.