

(d) whether proper investigations of all allegations will be completed soon and disciplinary action taken against all those found guilty, whether already retired or promoted; and

(e) the reasons for not handing over all the cases to the C.B.I. for proper and expeditious investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Augmentation of Banks Capital

3984. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some banks have requested Government to augment their capital base;

(b) whether some banks have been asked by his Ministry to work out the modalities of implementing the scheme;

(c) the name of banks from which such proposal has come; and

(d) the programme of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). Government have taken a decision to augment the capital base of 28 public Sector Banks. A sum of Rs. 400 crores has been provided in the budget for the current financial year as Government's contribution to share capital of the 20 nationalised banks. The authorised capital of State Bank of India has been raised to Rs. 200 crores. A decision has also been taken to raise the authorised capital of seven subsidiary banks of State Bank of India.

Increase in Prices of Essential Consumer Goods

3985. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a fall in inflation rate is foreseen by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to high inflation rate there is both visible and invisible rise in prices specially for essential consumer goods for weaker sections of society who are self-employed or belong to casual labour category and therefore not compensated or protected; and

(d) whether there is any plan to protect this category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The annual rate of inflation in terms of wholesale price index has declined from 7.6 per cent as on 6th April, 1985 to 4.9 per cent on 23rd November, 1985.

(c) In the current financial year (upto 23rd November, 1985) while some prices have increased (e.g. rice, wheat, jowar, gram, arhar, milk, sugar, gur, vanaspati and groundnut oil), others have also shown a decline (e.g. moong, urad, fish, chillies, tea, atta, mustard oil, salt and soap). Details of the variations are indicated below :—

| Commodity | Percentage variation in WPI (Between 30.3.1985 and 23.11.1985) |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 |
| All Commodities | + 2.9 |
| <i>Rise</i> (Selected items) | |
| Rise | + 6.0 |
| Wheat | + 7.8 |
| Jowar | + 2.4 |
| Gram | + 23.1 |
| Arhar | + 12.9 |
| Milk | + 6.9 |

| 1 | 2 |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Sugar | + 14.1 |
| Gur | + 14.0 |
| Vanaspati | + 9.5 |
| Groundnut Oil | + 1.2 |
| <i>Fall (Selected items)</i> | |
| Moong | - 15.7 |
| Urad | - 3.1 |
| Fish | - 6.7 |
| Chillies | - 7.9 |
| Tea | - 19.1 |
| Atta | - 2.4 |
| Mustard oil | - 0.3 |
| Salt | - 0.5 |
| Soap | - 4.5 |

(d) Apart from strengthening the public distribution system, special schemes have been formulated to ameliorate the lot of weaker sections including distribution of foodgrains at a concessional price to the people in the Integrated Tribal Development projects, extending the coverage of the Nutrition programme, the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee programme and the National Rural Employment programme.

Expansion of Trade between India and Brazil

3986. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Brazil is keen to expand trade tie with India;

(b) if so, whether any new suggestions have been given by Brazil for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of the areas proposed to be identified to expand further tie with Brazil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). Brazil has been expressing desire for expanding trade ties with India but on account of its current debt crisis its interest has been more for increasing exports to than imports from India. No new suggestions have been made by Brazil in this regard.

Trade Agreement between India and Ethiopia

3987. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ethiopia has expressed its willingness to import wheat, food products etc. from India;

(b) if so, whether any accord has been signed between the two countries in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Ethiopia has expressed interest in importing food products etc. including wheat on concessional credits.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Modernisation Plan for Rourkela Steel Plant

3988. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether modernisation plans for Rourkela Steel Plant has been formulated;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be spent for modernising Rourkela Steel Plant during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the detail of scheme included under the above modernisation programme of the said steel plant ?