

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). An Industrial Licence has been issued to a private sector unit for manufacture of Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA). Para-xylene is an intermediate for manufacture of PTA. No separate industrial licence is required to manufacture of para-xylene as it is for captive consumption. However, the unit obtained MRTP clearance from the point of investment for manufacture of Para-xylene for captive consumption.

(c) and (d). Approvals for import of capital goods and for foreign collaboration for manufacture of para-xylene for captive consumption were given in accordance with the procedure prevalent at that time.

(e) M/s. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. submitted proposals for manufacture of Benzene, Toluene and Xylenes and they have been permitted to undertake manufacture of Benzene and Toluene for the present.

Coal Output

216. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal output in India is far below the international standard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the coal output and to bring it at par with other developing countries in the world ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) India is the sixth largest coal producing country in the world and is, by and large, able to meet the requirements of its consuming sectors.

(b) and (c). From the present level of production of 154.24 m.t. (1985-86) it is proposed to go up to 226 m.t. by the end of the Seventh Plan to meet the growing energy needs of the country.

Steps to increase coal production include opening of new mines, infrastructure of better technologies, development of infrastructure facilities, better utilisation of machinery and improvement in management, and labour relations etc.

Measures taken to stabilise prices of essential commodities

217. SHRI V. SOBHANA-DREESWARA RAO :
SHRI SHRIHARI RAO :
SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the retail prices of the essential commodities have gone up since the presentation of the Fourth Pay Commission Report for the Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the measures taken by Government to stabilise the prices of the essential commodities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Retail prices of some items have increased, some have declined and some have remained steady in selected centres since the presentation of the Fourth Pay Commission Report for the Central Government Employees in the last week of June, 1986.

(b) A statement shows the retail prices of selected commodities at selected centres in the last week of June, 1986 and in the week-ending 9th October, 1986 is given below.

The main thrust of Government policy in order to check undue price rise is to increase the production of various essential commodities, particularly those which are in short supply. Imports of certain commodities like edible oils and kerosene are made in order to augment domestic availability. Exports of several essential commodities are either banned or regulated. The Public Distribution System through which essential commodities like foodgrains

sugar, imported edible oils etc. are supplied to common people, is being strengthened and expanded. Rice and wheat are supplied at cheaper prices in the tribal areas and under National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme. The State Governments have been urged from time to time to keep a strict watch on the prices and availability of essential commodities and to take prompt action against those who are indulging in malpractices by enforcing various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations strictly.

Statement

Retail Prices of Selected Commodities at selected centres in the last week of June, 1986 and week ending 9.10.86

Commodity	Unit	Bombay		Madras		Delhi	
		Last week of June, 1986	Week ending 9.10.86	Last week of June, 1986	Week ending 9.10.86	Last week of June, 1986	Week ending 9.10.86
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rice (Coarse)	Rs. per kg.	4.00	4.00	3.40	3.60	4.50	4.50
Wheat	..	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.50	2.30	2.30
Jowar	..	2.70	2.60	2.00	2.10	2.50	2.50
Bajra	..	3.30	3.30	2.10	2.00	2.60	2.80
Maize	..	3.00	N.Q.	2.80	2.80	2.60	2.60
Gram	..	6.60	6.50	6.50	5.00	5.70	5.25
Arhar Dal	..	6.20	8.50	8.00	9.00	6.00	7.50
Moong Dal	..	7.40	6.60	6.60	6.40	7.50	7.00
Masoor Dal	..	7.40	7.40	6.80	6.80	6.30	7.00
Urad Dal	..	8.40	8.40	6.60	7.20	7.80	8.20
Gram Dal	..	6.80	6.80	5.50	5.50	6.00	5.70
Groundnut Oil	..	18.00	27.00	20.00	25.00	22.00	N.A.
Gingelly Oil	..	20.00	24.00	18.50	21.00	21.00	24.00
Mustard Oil	..	20.00	22.00	20.00	23.00	16.00	19.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Coconut Oil	„	28.00	32.00	26.00	35.00	31.00	36.00
Vanaspati	Rs. per kg.	21.00	21.00	21.00	22.0	20.00	20.00
Sugar	„	6.40	6.20	5.60	5.80	7.00	7.00
Common Salt	„	1.00	1.00	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Potatoes	„	4.00	4.50	4.50	3.00	4.00	5.00
Onions	„	1.50	3.00	1.50	2.30	1.20	3.50
Milk (Buffalo)	Rs. per litre	7.50	7.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Mutton	Rs. per kg.	30.00	30.00	34.00	34.00	28.00	28.00
Red Chillies	„	12.00	12.00	10.00	8.50	22.00	18.00
Long Cloth	Rs. per metre	12.50	12.00	10.40	10.40	N.Q.	15.65

N.Q.—Not Quoted.

N.A.—Not available.

Bilateral Assistance for Talcher Super Thermal Power Project

218. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation is exploring the possibility of bilateral foreign assistance for the proposed Talcher Super Thermal Power Project;

(b) whether the World Bank has also approached for financial assistance and if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether despite serious financial constraints, the corporation has decided to take up more projects in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) whether any external financial sources have been found for financing these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir; the project proposal is under appraisal with the World Bank for financial assistance.

(c) and (d). Apart from the projects which are already approved for execution by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), the Corporation proposes to take up expansion of existing/approved projects and setting up of new projects for benefits during the Eighth Plan period. The possibility of funding these projects through external sources to the extent necessary would be explored after their feasibility is established.

De-reservation of Zip Fasteners Industry

219. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH ; Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "50 p.c. Zip fasteners imported illegally" appearing in Hindustan Times of 26 August,