

sputum/X-ray examination and treating the patients by supplying anti-T.B. drugs and chemotherapy courses.

(c) and (d). Tuberculosis is neither a notifiable disease nor is reliable data regarding exact cause of individual deaths in our country is available. However, it is estimated that about 50 persons per one lakh population die of T.B. disease every year in our country.

Phulwari Cotton Mills

270. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to revive Phulwari Cotton mills; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b). A decision regarding revival of the mill depends upon its viability being established before the Nodal Agency/Board for Industrial and financial Reconstruction. Phulwari Cotton Mills has been found to be non-viable by the Nodal Agency. Therefore, rehabilitation package has not been worked out by the Nodal Agency.

Distribution and sale of Viscose-Staple-Fibre.

272. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal regarding distribution and sale of Viscose-Staple-Fibre to facilitate the small consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) There is at present no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Rise in price of food articles

273. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steep hike in the prices of essential commodities available in the market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the rates of these items prevailing in the market at present; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to contain the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There has been a mixed trend in the behaviour of prices during the last one year ending 24.6.89. While there has been increase in the prices of some pulses like gram, masoor, urad, potatoes, tea, chillies, *gur*, rice and wheat; there has been a decline in the prices of some commodities like *bajra*, *moong*, *arhar*, groundnut oil, mustard oil, coconut oil and onions. The prices of soft coke and kerosene remained steady.

(b) The reasons for rise in prices of some of the items are mainly due to shortfall in domestic production and availability in the wake of drought in 1987, increase in con-