

Inflation Rate

733. DR. Y.S. RAJASHEKHARA
REDDY:
SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:
DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of inflation in February, 1992;

(b) the percentage increase in the rate of inflation in February, 1992 in comparison to preceding two months;

(c) the reasons for increase in the rate of inflation; and

(d) the measures being taken to bring down the rate to a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The annual rate of inflation in terms of wholesale price index (WPI) on a point to point basis was 11.8% on 8th February, 1992.

(b) The percentage increase in the rate of inflation in February, 1992 in comparison to preceding two months is given below:

Annual Rate of Inflation

Month	Rate (per cent)	Change since 7.12.91 (% Points)
7.12.91	14.4	—
11.1.92	13.1	(-) 1.3
8.2.92	11.0	(-) 2.6

(c) The rate of inflation has declined over the last two months.

(d) The Government has taken a number of measures to bring down the rate of inflation to a reasonable level. These include: strict fiscal discipline through reduction in fiscal deficit and growth of money supply and bank credit against price-sensitive essential commodities, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities and strict action against hoarders and profiteers. Incentives are being provided for raising production to ensure medium-term stability in prices.

[*Translation*]

Widening of Delhi-Jaipur National Highway

734. SHRI RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
GANGWAR:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether traffic on Delhi-Jaipur National Highway has increased considerably; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to widen this section of National Highway No. 13?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. Traffic on entire National Highway network in the country including Delhi-Jaipur section is steadily on the increase.

(b) Delhi-Jaipur Road having a length of 263 km is part of National Highway NO. 8 and not NH 13. It is already 2-lane in a length of 227 km and 4-lane in 36 km. Widening to

4 lanes in another 85.5 km is either in progress of commencing shortly. Four laning of the balance length would depend upon resources position in the future plans, inter-se priority of this work on all India basis and availability of funds.

[English]

Allocation of Funds to Handloom Sector of Andhra Pradesh

735. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds made by Union Government to handloom sector of Andhra Pradesh during 1991-92 and utilisation of the fund upto January 1992 by this sector;

(b) whether in view of the starvation deaths of the workers during March-September, 1991 the allocation for the state was increased; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Allocation of funds to the handloom sector is made scheme-wise and, not State-wise. During 1991-92, the Central Government has released a sum of Rs. 2054.78 lakhs to Andhra Pradesh upto 31st January, 1992.

(b) and (c). The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been of the view that the deaths of weavers were not due to starvation, while at the same time being of the opinion that there was distress condition. Some of the actions taken by Govt. of India to ameliorate the conditions of the Weavers of Andhra Pradesh are:-

(i) Additional target of 5 million

sq. metres of janata cloth was allotted to Andhra Pradesh and for this purpose a sum of Rs. 127.50 lakh was advanced. This target was in addition to the initial target of 52 million sq. metres allotted to the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) For non-janata cloth the State Government has been given an additional allocation by way of market development assistance to enable it to procure cloth worth Rs. 2 crores.

(iii) In order to upgrade the skills of weavers as well as the marketability of their products a decentralised training programme was sanctioned for 300 weavers.

(iv) A Group Insurance Scheme to cover 12000 weavers in the districts of Guntur, Krishna and Prakasam has been sanctioned and the share of Govt. of India towards premia has been released.

Cut on Central Government Employees Salaries

736. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a 10 per cent cut in Salaries of the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor particularly in view of fall in their purchasing power due to sharp rise in prices?