

the Central and the State Governments. In the past three months as is indicated by the statement there has been a mixed trend in the prices of essential commodities in as much as the prices of some commodities have gone up, some have either declined or remained steady.

(c) and (d). The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of essential commodities particularly the ones which are in short supply. The public distribution system is being expanded and improved. Some commodities are imported to supplement domestic supplies. The export of essential commodities is regulated. Measures are also being taken to enforce fiscal discipline and for keeping the aggregate liquidity under control.

(e) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Central Government to set up a Prices Commission "to have a constant appraisal of rising prices of essential commodities." The existing arrangements for monitoring of prices at various levels are considered adequate.

#### Statement

*Percentage variation in Wholesale Price Indices of Selected Commodities*

Commodity	April-June 1985
1	2
Rice	+5.7
Wheat	-1.0
Jowar	-0.2
Bajra	+6.5
Gram	-2.8
Arhar	-2.8
Moong	+2.5
Masoor	+9.7
Urad	-0.2
Potatoes	+75.6
Onions	-2.5
Milk	+5.8

1	2
Fish	+1.3
Meat	+2.7
Chillies	+14.7
Tea	Steady
Coke	Steady
Kerosene	+5.2
Atta	-1.7
Sugar	+14.1
Gur	+23.4
Vanaspati	+2.2
Groundnut Oil	-4.4
Mustard Oil	-6.9
Coconut Oil	-22.8
Salt	+0.5
Soap	+2.3
Match Box	Steady
Cotton Cloth (mills).	+1.4

#### Construction of Sub-Standard Flats by DDA

982. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister had cautioned the DDA in regard to construction of sub-standard flats at some places; and

(b) if so, the names of the places where sub-standard flats have been constructed and the corrective steps taken by his Ministry in the context of Prime Minister's warning ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Drought Situation

983. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :  
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH  
MALIK :

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :  
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of serious drought situation prevailing in various States in the country due to the failure of rains during the period April to June 1985;

(b) the estimated loss of crops which have been destroyed/damaged as a result thereof;

(c) whether any central team has visited the affected States, if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether any relief has since been provided by Central Government to the drought affected States and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have reported drought conditions during April to June, 1985 and sought Central assistance.

(b) According to the reports received from these States, crop over an area of 105.48 lakh ha. have been adversely affected due to drought during this period.

(c) and (d). The Central Teams have visited the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, J and K, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra und Uttar Pradesh. The request of Government of Rajasthan has been received recently and is under process. A ceiling of Central assistance of Rs. 181.71 crores has been sanctioned to these States as details given below :

Name of State	Amount (in crores)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	30.80
Haryana	9.21
Jammu and Kashmir	4.12

1	2
Karnataka	22.16
Madhya Pradesh	26.04
Maharashtra	29.46
Punjab	8.14
Uttar Pradesh	51.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>181.71</b>

The report of the Central Team on drought in Himachal Pradesh is under process. However, in the meanwhile, ways and means advance of Rs. 15.00 crores has been released. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have requested for additional Central assistance which is under consideration.

[English]

#### Soil Erosion in Rajasthan

984. SHRI JUJHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the impact of Soil erosion due to rains in Rajasthan is the highest in Kota Division, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether the rate of soil-erosion has increased as a result of defective Land-use policy and allotment of marginal land for agricultural use in the past two decades;

(c) whether Rajasthan or the Government of India conducted any survey of increasing soil-erosion in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No specific surveys have been conducted in Rajasthan to establish that the impact of soil erosion in Kota Division is the highest. However, Kota Division is predominantly affected by the special problem of revines.

(b) As per available information, the problem of wind erosion in the arid zone of Rajasthan has increased during the past two decades due to the following factors :