

imprisonment etc. Depending upon the facts and circumstances of each case suitable steps are taken from time to time.

**Impact of recent price hike on
Wholesale Price Index and
Consumer Price Index**

163. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total impact on the Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index respectively of the recent hikes in the administered prices of coal, wheat, rice, fertilisers and petroleum products announced by Government;

(b) the total revenue in a whole year as a result of these hikes in prices; and

(c) whether Government have any proposals to provide relief to the common people from the rise in prices and inflation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The direct impact of the recent revisions during January and February, 1986 in administered prices of coal, fertilisers, petroleum products and the issue prices of rice and wheat is estimated at 0.7 per cent on the wholesale price index. The latest wholesale price index, available upto 1st February, 1986, shows a slight fall in that week. The Index, however, did not include changes in respect of prices of petroleum products, rice and wheat. The consumer price index for industrial workers (1960-100) is available only upto December, 1985.

(b) The revision in the prices of petroleum products is estimated to yield an additional Rs. 530 crores for the public sector oil undertakings. The increase in the other administered prices will go towards reducing subsidies or lowering costs of the relevant public sector undertakings.

(c) While all price increases have an impact on consumers, the Government is keeping a close watch on the overall price

situation. The public distribution system for essential commodities is being expanded and schemes whereby the poorer sections receive foodgrains at highly subsidised prices are being continued. Plan investment will also result in a number of schemes for the urban and rural poor.

Exports of Madhubani Paintings

164. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fresh efforts have been made to boost the export of Madhubani paintings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation of India undertook special project for development of Madhubani Paintings with a view to provide relief to the artists in drought prone areas during 1984-85. The Madhubani Paintings so developed were sent to France and U.S.A. to renew the public interest in this field. Some paintings were also sent to Smithsonian Institute, Washington, U.S.A., as a part of Festival of India and met with public appreciation.

**RBI study on causes of Bihar's
economic backwardness**

165. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India proposes to conduct a study on the causes of Bihar's economic backwardness; and

(b) if so, when such a study will be conducted and the time by which the study team will submit its report to Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) jointly with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development had set up a Committee in