

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

November, 1983 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. S. Sen to look into the problems of agricultural development in the Eastern Region, including Bihar. The Committee has submitted its report on 31.12.1984.

RBI has also reported that at the meeting of the State Level Bankers' Committee held on 1.2.86, presided over by Governor, RBI the problem of low credit-deposit ratio and general economic backwardness in Bihar was discussed. RBI has further reported that a Committee consisting of State Government Secretaries and senior bankers has been constituted to monitor the stepping up of the credit deposit ratio in Bihar. Such monitoring would be an ongoing process.

[Translation]

Minting of coins

166. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI
SHAKTAWAT :
SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH
PATIL :
SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN
SINHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coins minted in the country alongwith the number of coins imported from other countries during the year 1985-86;

(b) whether the cost of minting of coins in Foreign countries was less as compared with that in India.

(c) whether the storage of coins in the country will be completely removed during 1986-87; and

(d) whether Government propose to enact any effective law to check the melting of coins to obtain metal in view of their shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) *Million Pieces*

(i) Coins Minted in India 1760.47
during 1.4.85 to 8.2.86

(ii) Coins imported during 1083.26
the same period in the
denominations of Re. 1/-,
50 P and 25 P.

(b) Yer, Sir.

(c) With increased production and supply of indigenous coins as well as imports arranged, Government expect that the shortage situation will ease considerably.

(d) There is no such proposal. The Small Coins (Offences) Act 1971 (No. 52 of 1971) provides for punishment for melting or destruction of small coins as well as hoarding of small coins for the purpose of melting or destruction. This is considered adequate to take care of the situation.

Development of tourist centres in Himalayan Regions

167. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 tourist centres are being developed in the Himalayan Regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government plans to improve airport hassles, untidy hotels and poor information systems as also poor transportation and reservation system to attract more tourists from within and outside the country ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
(SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) This is not
a fact.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.