

Price Rise in Fruits and Vegetables

3319. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been stagnation in production of fruits and vegetables leading to price rise and non-availability of these protective foods, including milk, meat, fish etc. to weaker sections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). Although no firm estimates of production of all fruits & vegetables in the country are available,

due to several Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored and State Sector programmes for augmenting production, it is likely that there has not been any stagnation in the production of these crops. All-India production of principal protective foods during the past few years, like milk, eggs, meat and fish given in Statement-I below indicates that the production has not declined in respect of these commodities.

Statement - II below gives all-India Index Numbers of wholesale prices of fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs and fish during 1987 (June-end), as compared to the corresponding index numbers in the previous three years. The recent price rise in respect of few fruits & vegetables and milk is on account of seasonality factor and drought conditions. The price rise in respect of other protective foods is in line with the increase in prices of major food articles.

STATEMENT-I*All-India Production of Selected Protective Foods*

Commodity	Unit	1983-84	1984-85	(Provisional)	
				1985-86	1986-87 (Anticipated)
Milk	Million tonnes	38.9	41.0	42.3	44.0
Meat	—do—	0.98	1.01	1.04	
Eggs	Thousand million numbers	12.8	14.3	15.4	15.9
Fish	Million tonnes	2.59	2.80	2.88	2.92

Note: (a) Years relate to financial years (April - March)

(b) Production of meat is for the calendar years; Figures for 1983, are given against 1983-84 and so forth. The figures are as published in the FAO Production Book (1985), in case of India.

STATEMENT-II

All-India Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices of Selected Commodities/Groups

(Base 1970-71=100)

Commodity/Group	Index numbers of end-June during the year			
	1984	1985	1986	1987
Fruits	364.9	474.3	449.5	537.5
Vegetables	247.1	228.1	396.2	339.7
Milk	266.5	280.9	287.3	311.1
Meat	404.5	483.8	564.5	597.1
Eggs	188.5	182.6	211.5	212.3
Fish	436.6	494.9	577.8	643.2

Waiving of farm Loans *

3320. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the States have taken a decision to waive farm loans upto Rs. 20,000/- and to liberalise the social security package to weaker sections as it has greatly affected the implementation of the on-going and new agricultural and rural development schemes;

(b) if so, to what extent it has affected;

(c) whether the continuance of the Centrally aided poverty alleviation programmes have also been seriously affected;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Union Government in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which the waiver of farm loans has affected the development schemes in the States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON): (a) No formal intimation has been received by the Government of India about the decision of any

State Government to waive farm loan upto Rs. 20,000.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Intra-Ministerial Policy Planning and Monitoring Cell

3321. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is planning to create a High-level Intra-ministerial Policy Planning and Monitoring Cell;

(b) if so, the reasons for creating such a Cell,

(c) whether this Cell will have experts from various Government media cells; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (d). The Government has decided to set up a Policy Planning Cell in this Ministry with a view to evolve proper strategies for dissemination of information in a more coordinated and effective manner. This