

recently as has been reported in Economic Times dated the March, 25, 1979; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). The wholesale price index for cotton cloth fell from 185.7 in February, 1979 to 185.5 in March, 1979. Nevertheless, the Minister of Industry has discussed the matter of cloth prices with the industry. The industry has responded with the following three alternatives:—

(i) a roll back to the level of cloth prices prevailing in December, 1978;

OR

(ii) a price freeze on cotton cloth at the levels prevailing prior to 16th March, 1979;

OR

(iii) a reduction in ex-mill prices of cotton cloth to the extent of two per cent of the invoice rates obtaining prior to 16th March, 1979.

None of these alternatives has been acceptable to Government. Government is presently considering measures to compel the mills to roll back the prices to a reasonable level.

Change in Plan Priorities

7453. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether plan priorities have undergone any qualitative and quantitative changes during the last two years 1977-78 and 1978-79; and

(b) if so, facts thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reason for these changes is the recognition of the need to achieve certain basic objectives, namely, reduction of poverty and elimination of unemployment, within a definite time-frame.

The salient features of the changes in priorities are given in the statement attached.

Statement

The new development strategy that has now been adopted has been explained in detail in the Draft Five Year Plan 1978-83. It aims at a significant reduction of poverty and unemployment within a decade. The implications of these objectives have been explicitly and clearly worked out in terms of investment and output growth. The plans for development of agriculture have been more firmly formulated than before. The main thrust of the planning strategy in this sector is to expand the areas under irrigation as rapidly as may be possible and to develop cropping patterns and agricultural practices which optimise the use of land and water resources. Land re-distribution and regulation of the growth of farm mechanisation has also been recommended to ensure maximum labour use consistent with optimum land and water utilisation.

The strategy of Industrial development adopted seeks to employ technologies which have a low capital to output ratio, provided production costs are not adversely affected to any significant extent. A number of industries with technology options have been identified.

An intensive programme of area planning has been adopted for increasing productivity and providing full employment to the rural unemployed within the ten year time frame. A "Revised Minimum Needs Programme" (RAMP) has been drawn up to fulfil the promise of providing essential infrastructure and social services, to the poorest sections of the population, particularly in the rural areas.

The Annual Plans for 1977-78 and 1978-79 was formulated in conformity with the above strategy. The step up in Plan Outlay on the prio-

riety sectors during these years and in the Plan 1978-83 are indicated in the accompanying tables.

Table 1

Sectoral break-up of the outlays (Central, State and Union Territories) on Agriculture and allied services, Irrigation, Powers and other related sectors

	(Rs. in crores)			
	1976-77	1977-78 (BE)	1978-79 (BE)	1979-80
1. Agriculture and allied services (including minor irrigation)	820.44	1170.40	1659.76	1714.00
2. Cooperation (85% of the outlay in assumed for rural sector)	79.93	90.41	97.49	83.44
3. Major and Medium Irrigation and Flood control	686.79	1057.73	1160.60	1252.05
4. REC (Normal Programme) REC (MNP) SEB's own programme for Rural Electrification	114.07	194.52	271.98	285.10
5. Power (15% of total Investment can be attributed to rural sector on the basis of consumption of energy)	202.40	259.54	291.77	320.49
6. Outlay for fertilizers	420.06	305.85	238.17	263.51
TOTAL	2323.59	3078.45	3699.77	3824.59

Table 2

Estimated Public Sector Plan Outlay on Rural Development

		(Rs. in crores)	
Sl. No.	Sector	Fifth Plan 1974-79	Plan 1978-83
	(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Agriculture and Allied Programmes including Irrigation*	4644	9525
2.	Irrigation and Flood Control	3434	7925
3.	Fertilisers and Pesticides	1555	1688
4.	Power for rural areas*	1676	3557
5.	Rural Roads	500	800
6.	Rural Water Supply	432	765

*Excludes Institutional Finance.

(1)	(2)	(3)
7. Rural Health and Family Welfare	729	1482
8. Hill and tribal areas	450	800
9. Rural education	846	1400
10. Telecommunication and Postal Services	N.A.	311
11. Nutrition	90	140
12. Social Welfare	10	32
13. Traditional cottage and household industries*	330	1000
14. Rural housing	55	500
TOTAL RURAL OUTLAY	14751	29925
TOTAL PLAN OUTLAY	39322	69380
Rural outlays as % of total Plan Outlay	37.5	43.1

*Excludes Institutional Finance.

Supply of Cement to Himachal Pradesh

7454. SHRI GANGA SINGH, Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of cement by the State of Himachal Pradesh and supply thereof in the year 1975-76; 1976-77; 1977-78; 1978-79; and

(b) whether the Government of India would consider of meeting State demands for priority sector before allotting the same to other sectors and parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) According to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, the demand for

cement in the State for the year 1979 is about 2.45 lakh tonnes. Demand estimates for the earlier years are not available. The quantities of cement allocated and actually supplied to the State during the last four years are as follows:—

Year	(in '000 tonnes)	
	Allocation	Supplied
1975-76	90.0	52.1
1976-77	120.0	65.6
1977-78	115.5	81.5
1978-79	140.0	115.9

(b) Government of India have decided to meet the requirement of priority sector under irrigation and power before releasing cement for other purposes.