

through a number of measures which include strengthening the Public Distribution System; augmenting domestic, availability through imports of commodities in short supply; curbing anti-social activities; increasing production; more efficient management of infrastructure and restraining undue expansion in money supply and bank credit.

Shortage of Essential Commodities in Garo Hills Districts of Meghalaya

798. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of essential commodities like rice, sugar, fuel etc. in the Garo Hills Districts of Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the situation in the area?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). On account of movement constraints, created by continuing agitation in Assam, the availability of some essential commodities in North Eastern States including Meghalaya has been adversely affected. Even though the Gauhati and Digboi refineries have been working intermittently the overall availability of kerosene etc. in the North Eastern Region has gone down appreciably.

All efforts are being made to move as much of rice to the North Eastern States including Meghalaya as possible under the prevailing circumstances. In the case of levy sugar, out of total allocation of 2655.8 tonnes made to Meghalaya upto May, 1980, the total quantity lifted by FCI upto 31st May, 1980 was 2536.8 tonnes, leaving a balance of only 119.0 tonnes. In the case of kerosene some quantity had to be moved from Haldia, (West Bengal), to Silguri and from there despatched by road/rail to North Eastern States

including Meghalaya. From out of the available product, pro-rata allocations are being made to these States.

However, the responsibility of making available the supplies of these commodities to different areas of the State is that of the State Government.

Demand, Allocation and Actual Supply of Edible Oils to States

799. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) State-wise demand for edible oils, month-wise, from January to May, 1980;

(b) Statewise allocation and actual supply, month-wise from January to May, 1980; and

(c) on what basis State-wise quota per edible oils is fixed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) On the basis of data furnished by State Governments/Union Territories, a statement showing the demand for the period from January, 1980 to May, 1980 is enclosed. (Annexure I).

(b) The Statements [Statements II & III (a) to (e)] giving the required information are laid on the Table of the House. Placed in Library. See No. LT-885/80).

(c) Monthly allocation of imported edible oils to States are made by the Central Government on the basis of their projected demand and also keeping in view the lifting by them of allocation for the previous months.

Rise in Index of Wholesale Prices

800. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) rise in the index of wholesale prices (in per cent) between 1st

March, 1979 and 31st July, 1979 between 1st August, 1979 and 31st January, 1980;

(b) rise in wholesale price index, monthwise, from February to May, 1980; and

(c) rise in wholesale price index of (in per cent) cereals, foodgrains, fuels, match boxes, toilets including soaps and cotton textile goods during the same periods?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) (a) The Wholesale Price Index (1970-71—) increased by 14.3 per cent between 3-3-1979 and 28-7-1979 and by 5.8 per cent between 28-7-1979 and 26-1-1980.

(b) and (c). The available information about the rise in wholesale price index is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (1970-71=100)

Percent variations

	28-7-79	26-1-80	Feb 80	March 80	April 80	May 80*
	3-3-79	28-7-79	Jan. 80	Feb. 80	March 80	April 80
All Commodities	14.3	5.8	1.8	No ch.	0.6	2.6
Foodgrains	8.1	5.6	-0.2	-0.1	-1.2	0.1
Cereals	8.3	7.7	-0.1	-0.3	-1.4	2.0
Fuels	8.2	12.2	1.3	-2.4	2.0	9.0
Match Box	No ch.	5.3	No ch.	No ch.	No ch.	-1.6
Cosmetics, soap and detergents	0.5	15.9	-1.2	1.3	0.1	1.2
Cotton textiles	2.8	3.8	1.2	Neg	1.6	1.5

* Average of first 4 weeks of May 1980 compared with the preceding month

N.B. Figures for March, April & May 1980 are provisional

Mini Steel Plants and their installed capacity/production

801. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) total number of mini steel plants in the country at present and total installed capacity of and actual production of steel from mini plants, year-wise, from 1975-76 to 1979-80;

(b) total capital investment as at the end of 1979-80;

(c) how many plants are actually functioning now; and

(d) total number of workers laid-off/thrown out of employment during the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) At present there are 146 mini steel plants in the country and their installed capacity is 3.2 million tonnes per year approximately.