

Fall in Industrial Growth Rate

2302. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a sharp deterioration in the performance of industrial sector in 1979-80;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as against the average annual growth rate of 6.9 per cent the index for April-February of 1979-80 shows a decline of 0.8 per cent over the same period in the previous year; and

(c) if the answer to above parts be in the affirmative, what are the factors responsible for this poor performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b). According to the latest figures of index of industrial production released by the CSO, the average index for 1979-80 was 1.4 per cent lower than in 1978-79; the average index for April-February 1979-80 was 1.0 per cent lower than for April-February 1978-79 while the average index for April-February 1978-79 was 7.8 per cent higher than for the same period in the previous year.

(c) The most important factors responsible for this decline in 1979-80 were shortage of power, paucity of certain critical raw materials, labour unrest and transport bottlenecks. The drought led to fall in production in agro-based industries such as sugar and tea.

Price of Vegetables

2303. SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per Kg. freight charges of articles airlifted from Chandigarh to Leh;

(b) what is the per Kg. cost of fresh vegetables like Cabbage, Cauliflower, Potato, Carrot, Onion, Radish, Turnip, Spinach etc. and fruits like apple and apricot obtained through the Vegetable Marketing Societies in Leh, Kargil and Nubra etc. for consumption of Armed forces;

(c) whether Government propose considering increasing the present rates in view of high cost of cultivation and high freight charges; and

(d) if not, the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Rs. 2.60 per Kg. at present.

(b) Per Kg. cost of fresh vegetables and fruits as concluded with the Leh Marketing Society for the years 1978, 1979 and 1980-81 and also with Marketing Society, Nubra for the first time from 1st June, 1980 to 31st December, 1980 are given in the statement attached. No negotiated contract has been concluded for procurement of vegetables/fruit from Kargil Cooperative Marketing Society yet.

(c) and (d). While carrying out negotiated contracts, high cost of cultivation and high freight charges have been taken into account for finalisation of rates and there has been progressive increase in the rates of negotiated contracts as would be evident from the attached statement.