

Wholesale Price Rice Rates

2861. SHRI PALAS BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) annual rates of wholesale price rise during the period 1956—61, 1961—65, 1965—68, 1968—73, 1973—78, 1978—81; and

(b) factors responsible for rise or fall in price during these periods?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). The Wholesale Price Index (1970-81=100) shows per annum rate of increase as follows:—

Period (Financial year Basis)	Average increase per annum (per cent)
1956—61	+ 6.3
1961—65	+ 5.3
1965—68	+ 11.1
1968—73	+ 4.7
1973—78	+ 10.3
1978—81	+ 11.7

The prices are subject to a large number of factors operating both on supply and demand. The various factors influencing the price situation have been discussed in official publications such as Five-Year Plans, Annual Economic Surveys and Annual Reports on Currency and Finance issued by R.B.I. The factors underlying the recent inflationary pressure, in brief, are: international inflation and the increase in prices of crude and petroleum products, unavoidable upward adjustment in certain administered prices, continuing supply constraints on some commodities, artificial scarcities created by certain hoarders and speculators and existing liquidity in the system.

Import of Cotton Bales from Pakistan

2862. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:

SHRI MOTIBHAI R. CHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Cotton Corporation of India has negotiated a deal with Cotton Export Corporation of Pakistan for import of cotton bales; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the requirement of the textile industry so far, 49,500 bales of medium staple cotton have been contracted for import from Pakistan. These pertain to Qamar SG 1.1|16", Eagle SG 1", 1424 SG and 1423 SG varieties and the prices of these varieties range between 71.80 US Cents per lb. to 66.90 Cents per bale.

Alleged Smuggling by Afghan Smugglers

2863. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any letter regarding the alleged smuggling by some Afghan smugglers who are now operating from Delhi from one J. R. Belag, 3-C/3, New Rohtak Road;

(b) if so, the nature of the allegations; and

(c) what action, if any, Government have taken on the same and with what results?