

Group Insurance scheme for agricultural Labourer

3314. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation has prepared a scheme for group insurance to give protection to agricultural labourers ; and

(b) the areas where the scheme will be applicable and the estimated number of agricultural labourers to be benefited therefrom ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Last month, the Life Insurance Corporation introduced, for the first time, a group life insurance scheme for agricultural landless labourers. The scheme has been introduced at six centres in the districts of Bulsar and Surat in Gujarat State and the present covers 1,758 persons.

Increase in wholesale price Index

3315. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the wholesale price index registered an increase of 9.5 per cent on one year and the wholesale index rose by 1.4 per cent in the four weeks ending April 23 and galoped by 2.4 per cent in the next four weeks ending May 21 ;

(b) do Government feel that at this rate, the price situation may go out of control with the prospects of an uncertain monsoon and poor industrial growth ; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to control the price rise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Wholesale Price Index on week ending May 21, 1983 showed an increase of 9.8 per cent over the level of index a year ago. The index rose by 2.1 per cent in the 4 weeks ending 23rd April, 1983 and by 2 per cent in the next 4 weeks ending May 21, 1983.

Price usually come under pressure during this period due to seasonal factors. With

wide spread rainfall the prospects of agricultural and industrial production have improved. This is reflected in the moderation of price pressure. The annual rate of inflation was 7 per cent as on week ended July 23, 1983 (latest available). The increase in the wholesale price index at 1.0 per cent in June and 1.1 per cent in July (upto 23rd) was lower than that in the previous two months.

A series of steps have been taken by the Government to control the rise in prices which include strengthening of the Public Distribution System, regulated releases of sugar and edible oils, import of rice and wheat and cautious monetary and credit policy. The price situation is being kept under surveillance and further necessary steps will be taken in the light of the emerging trends.

Report of Commissioner of Hoshangabad (M.P.) over unauthorised Collection of scrap of metal from exploded shells at Itarsi Proof Range

3316. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mr. H.G. Obhrai, the Commissioner of Hoshangabad (MP) has submitted his report on the problem created by the unauthorised collection of scrap of metal from exploded shell at the Itarsi proof range ;

(b) if so, the details of his recommendations ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commissioner has inter-alia recommended tightening up of security measures, review of legal provisions as well as implementation of socio-economic measures with a view to weaning away the villagers from the temptation of entering the proof area.

(c) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the State Government.

Denial of loan to weaker sections of Society by nationalised banks

3317. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY: