

1982	597.50	497.25	473.00
1983	683.25	572.25	562.50
1984 (Jan.—May)	782.25	727.35	838.15

Tea	Unit Price
Year	(Rs./kg)
1981-82	18.15
1982-83	19.06
1983-84	28.33

Proposal to Levy cess on Cardamom at Growers' Level

3807. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to levy cess upto Rs. 25/-per kg. on cardamom at the growers' level;

(b) the reasons in shifting cess from export point to production point; and

(c) whether it will not reduce the returns to cardamom growers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The proposal to levy cess on cardamom production, besides that on exports, is under consideration. The idea is to adjust the two levies depending on domestic and export trade profits, in such a way that it may be in the interest of growers as well as exporters of cardamom at a particular point of time.

Increase in Index of Wholesale Prices During July, 1984

3808. SHRI B.V. DESAI :
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER
JAIN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the general index of wholesale prices during the third week of July, 1984 has increased;

(b) if so, whether the increase in general index in July this year has been a record one; and

(c) if so, the main causes thereof and the steps taken by Government to check them ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the four weeks ended July 28, 1984 the general index of wholesale prices increased by 2.3 per cent (end-month basis). The increase in prices in the month of July is not unusual because of seasonal pressures as may be seen from the fact that the wholesale price Index increased in the corresponding period by 4.8 per cent in 1979-80 3.5 per cent in 1980-81, 2.4 per cent in 1981-82, 1.9 per cent in 1982-83 and 1.4 per cent in 1983-84.

From time to time, Government have taken steps, both on the demand and supply side, to contain inflation. These include, inter alia, incentives for higher production strengthening of the public distribution system, larger releases of foodgrains, sugar and edible oils, import of essential items as and when necessary, enforcement of fiscal discipline and mopping up of excess liquidity in the system.

India Outdated by China in Silk Fabrics Garments, Dress Materials and Handicrafts

3809. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's sale of a number of traditional items ranging from silk-fabrics garments, dress materials and handicrafts has been outdated by China's exports;