

(b) the other functions allotted to the new Science Department for the promotion of Science and its application in the development and security of the nation ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. But not to supervise. The Department's tasks is to help them coordinate their activities in areas where they have common interests and capabilities.

(b) The functions allotted to the Department of Science and Technology are indicated in the statement placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1003/71]

Rise in Price of Consumer Goods

418. SHRI RAMKANWAR :
SHRI S.M. BANBRJEE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of consumer commodities have registered a steep rise during the last seven months;

(b) how the increase in prices of consumer goods have affected the family budget of the middle class and the lower middle class population in the Union Territory of Delhi; and

(c) whether Government have finalised proposals to check rise in prices and, if so, the broad features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Consumer retail price indices in respect of individual commodities are not compiled for the country as a whole. Variations in the wholesale price indices of selected consumer goods as between April and October, 1971 are given in statement placed on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1004/71]

(b) A statement showing the retail prices of selected consumer goods in the Union Territory of Delhi for the period April and October, 1971, showing the effect of prices of consumer goods on the family budget of the middle class and lower middle

class is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1004/71]

(c) The Government is taking all requisite steps to maintain price stability, some of which are as given below :

- (i) Increase in production-agricultural and industrial to meet the demand ;
- (ii) fixation of prices, statutorily or informally ;
- (iii) organisation of public distributive system for essential commodities like foodgrains and milk ;
- (iv) fair distribution of essential commodities through regulatory controls under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955; and
- (v) availability of essential commodities through cooperative channels.

Foreign Missionaries in India

419. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign missionaries in India in 1969-70 :

(b) whether there has been any increase in the number of foreign missionaries in India; and

(c) if so, how much ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS SHRI F.H. MOHSIN) : (a) The number of registered foreign missionaries in India as on the 31st December, 1969 and 1970 was 5,768 and 5,354 respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

National Register Scheme

420. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress recorded by the National Register Scheme since its introduction is much below the expectation ;