

तथा धातु मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 29 जनवरी, 1970 के "इंडियन एक्सप्रेस" समाचार पत्र में "कोपर प्रोस्पेक्टस" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित हुए सम्पादकीय लेख की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ग) निर्धारित समय में खेतड़ी तांबा खान में उत्पादन कार्य को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

पेट्रोलियम तथा रसायन और खान तथा धातु मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ राव):

(क) जी, हां ।

(ख) और (ग) . हिन्दुस्तान काँपर लिमिटेड द्वारा मई, 1968 में बनाई समयावली के अनुसार प्रयोजना द्वारा 1972 में उत्पादन प्रारंभ किया जाना नियत था । कुछ मर्दों के सम्बन्ध में डिजाइनों, विशिष्टियों आदि को अन्तिम रूप दिये जाने में देरियों के कारण से विभिन्न एककों के चालू किये जाने में देरी होने की सम्भावना है । कम्पनी ने पहली नियत समयावली का पुनरावलोकन प्रारम्भ किया है । जिसके पूरा हो जाने पर एककों को पूरा करने के लिए संशोधित तिथियों के संकेत मिलेंगे । प्रायोजना को जल्दी पूरा करने के लिए हर उपाय किया जा रहा है ।

Prices of Consumer and Food Items

161. SHRI S. R. DAMANI :
SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA :
SHRI VISHWA NATH
PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of consumer and food items have registered an increase, or decrease

during 1969 over those of the previous two years and by how much ;

(b) if there is increase, the reasons for the same ; and

(c) the steps taken to check this trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library.* See No. LT-1550/70].

(b) and (c). Whereas the yearly average of the index number of wholesale prices for 1969 showed an increase of 2.1 per cent over the previous year, the yearly average of the group index for food articles for 1969 stood 3.7 per cent lower than its preceding year's level. Prices came under pressure in the early part of 1969 mainly due to decline in the levels of production of certain agricultural commodities (e.g. coarse cereals, gram, raw jute, cotton and oilseeds) in 1968-69. Also, towards the end of the year there were renewed pressures on prices due to downward revision in the crop estimates for 1969-70 as well as due to delay in the winter rains in certain parts of the country. Therefore, in order to restrain price increases in the case of individual commodities, Government has been taking various measures which include tightening of credit restrictions on bank advances as in the case of raw cotton, vegetable oils and oilseeds, arrangement of larger imports as in the case of raw cotton and soyabean oil, restrictions on holdings of stocks with mills as in the case of raw cotton, and the extended use of the Essential Commodities Act. Government has build up a sizeable stock of foodgrains and continues maintaining a system of public distribution in order to ensure supplies of essential commodities at reasonable prices. The total offtake of foodgrains from the Government stocks amounted to 9.6 million tonnes in 1969. There were 1,38,250 fair price shops in the country at the end of the year.

Children's Hospital in Rajasthan

162. SHRI N. K. SANGHI :
SHRI V. NARSIMHA RAO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS,