

Statement-IV

1. Implementation of recommendation of Subramaniam Committee report on issue of prevention of poaching and trade in wildlife during IX Five Year Plan.
2. Training and Workshops of various enforcement agencies for effective intelligence gathering and law enforcement.
3. Setting up of a national Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like Customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organisations like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.
4. To control transboundary trade, a protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China and a MOU with his Majesty's Governments of Nepal.
5. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Tiger Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
6. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.
7. Supporting programmes of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
8. Eco-development programme has been taken up around the protected areas to win over the support of fringe dwellers to the cause of wildlife conservation. Seven Pilot Protected Areas have been chosen to implement intensive eco-development programme by international support.

Clearance for Installation of Kilns

*537. SHRI PRATAP SINGH SAINI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the installation of brick kilns on the cultivable land is spreading pollution;

(b) if so, the loss of total national agriculture production due to installation of kilns on the cultivable land;

(c) if so, the name of the authority which permits installation of the kilns on the cultivable land; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government in this

regard and the steps proposed to be taken to shift these kilns on the land unsuitable for agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir. The emissions from brick kilns may cause air pollution problems in the adjoining areas. The yields of wheat and rice crops grown in the fields adjacent to brick kilns have been reported to be adversely affected.

(b) No conclusive data on the loss of total national agricultural production due to installation of brick kilns on the cultivable land in the country is available.

(c) The local authorities and other concerned departments permit installation of the brick kilns.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India have issued a notification on April 2, 1996 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1996 prescribing limits of particulate matter emissions and stack height regulations to control pollution from brick kilns.

Central Pollution Control Board has published a Comprehensive Industry Document in May, 1996, suggesting guidelines for location of brick kilns and adoption of pollution control measures for brick kilns.

Prices of Essential Commodities

*538. SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a trend of sharp increase in the prices of essential commodities such as wheat, rice, sugar, bread, milk, edible oils and various spices since 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and percentage of increase in 1996;

(c) the prices of said commodities from April, 1994 to 1997; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to control the prices of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the percentage variation in wholesale price index of essential commodities like wheat, rice, sugar, bread, milk, edible oils and spices for April, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 is given in attached

Statement-I. The rise in the prices of some of these commodities over the years is primarily due to lower production, increase in gap between demand and supply, increase in the input cost of production etc.

(c) A Statement showing the wholesale prices of wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils and spices and retail prices of bread and milk for April, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 at Delhi is given in attached Statement-II.

(d) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the control of prices of essential commodities. Apart from certain long term measures to increase the production of essential goods, imports under Open General Licence (OGL) of items which are in short supply like edible oils and pulses are encouraged to augment the total availability of these items. Government have decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat each during 1995-96 and 1996-97 through State Trading Corporation to augment its availability. Some of the commodities are also supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores at below market prices. State Governments/UT Administrations have been asked to take stringent actions against hoarders and black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act etc.

Statement-I

Annual variation in wholesale Price Indices of selected commodities during April, 1994 to April, 1997

| Commodity | April 97 April, 96 (%) | April, 96 April, 95 (%) | April, 95 April, 94 (%) |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rice | 10.6 | 7.1 | 10.0 |
| Wheat | 30.3 | 1.5 | 1.3 |
| Sugar | 15.5 | 2.1 | -3.8 |
| Bread | 23.4 | 20.3 | 1.6 |
| Milk | 5.4 | 0.8 | 5.2 |
| Edible Oils | 0.6 | -2.0 | 15.6 |
| Spices & Condiments | 5.6 | 18.4 | 1.2 |

Statement-II

Month end wholesale prices of essential commodities at Delhi

(Rs. per Qtl.)

| Commodity | April, 94 | April 95 | April, 96 | April, 97 |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Rice | 625 | 660 | 750 | 825 |
| Wheat | 365 | 390 | 420 | 520 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Sugar | | 1370 | 1320 | 1275 | 1370 |
| Groundnut Oil | | 3633 | 4133 | 4000 | 3900 |
| Mustard Oil | | 2733 | 3033 | 3066 | 3100 |
| Vanaspati | | 3773 | 3677 | 3433 | 3853 |
| Chillies (Dry) | | 2200 | 3900 | 4600 | 4300 |
| Turmeric | | 2000 | 1975 | 1700 | 2550 |
| Milk (Per ltr.)* | | 11.00 | 12.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 |
| Bread (800 g.)* | | 6.50 | 7.50 | 8.00 | 10.50 |

* Retail Prices.

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments and Directorate of Economic & Statistics Ministry of Agriculture.

[Translation]

Non-Governmental Organisations

*539. DR. G.R. SARODE :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of grants given by the Ministry to the Non-Governmental Organisations in the country, State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted for providing grants of such organisations;

(c) whether the Government monitor the utilisation of the said amount by these organisations;

(d) if so, whether the Government have detected cases of misutilisation of funds by these organisations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check the misuse?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The details of grants given by the Ministry to the Non-Governmental Organisations in the country, State-wise, during 1996-97 are enclosed as Statement-I attached.

(b) The grants are given keeping in view the norms and guidelines laid down in the concerned schemes. Inspection Report of the State Government is also taken into consideration, before sanctions are made.

(c) Yes, Sir. Monitoring is done by the State Government regularly.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. Whenever a case of misutilisation