

launched by mid-January, 1992.

(e) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

**Processing of Fruits and Vegetables**

**3402. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH  
YADAV:**

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether fruits and vegetables of the value of Rupees 30 billion goes waste in India, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the percentage of fruit and vegetables that are processed; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to increase the capacity and modernise the units of food processing industries?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING IN-  
DUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO):**

(a) While no authentic information is available, it is estimated that fruits & vegetables valued at Rs. 3,000/- crores are wasted every year due to inadequate post harvest handling as well as absence of linkage with the processors and fresh fruits & vegetable markets.

(b) It is estimated that about 1% of the fruits and vegetables are processed.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have formulated various plan schemes to extend financial assistance to the State Government undertakings, public sector undertakings and cooperatives etc. for increasing the present processing capacity, setting up of food processing industries and for modernisation of these industries.

This assistance is given on the proposals received through the State Governments.

[*English*]

**Diversion of Stock of FPS to Open  
Market**

**3403. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:**  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the kerosene oil dealers and Fair Price Shop owners in Delhi are diverting the stocks in the blackmarket as has been established with the catching of a wheat loaded truck in Moti Nagar area and a tanker of kerosene oil in Nizamuddin area recently;

(b) if so, the reasons for not keeping a strict eye on these dealers by the Food and Supplies Department; of Delhi Administration;

(c) the steps taken to tone up the working and functioning of the Food and Supplies Department;

(d) the number of premises of hoarders of kerosene and ration shops raided for diversion of these stuff and the action taken against them, with details thereof; and

(e) the number of licences cancelled suspended by Delhi Administration during the last twelve months with reasons thereof?

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-  
TRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC  
DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN  
AHMED):** (a) to (c). Some cases of diversion of specified food articles and kerosene oil have been detected by Delhi Administration. The Delhi Administration regularly undertakes inspection of fair price shops and kerosene oil depots to curb diversion of PDS items into the open market. Surprise checks

and raids are conducted by it based on intelligence gathered and complaints received from the public.

(d) From 1.11.1991 to 30.11.1991, the Delhi Administration checked 929 fair price shops and 493 kerosene oil depots. F.I. Rs. have been lodged against 40 fair price shop owners and 15 kerosene oil licensees under the Essential Commodities Act. 80 persons were arrested. Departmental action has also been initiated against 349 FPSs and 92 kerosene oil depots.

(e) 91 fair price shop authorisations/kerosene oil licences were suspended and 23 have been cancelled for irregularities relating to stocks, maintenance of accounts and diversion of ration articles to unauthorised channels.

[*Translation*]

#### Prices of Essential Commodities

3404. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System has failed in controlling the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the Government's view point in this regard; and

(c) if not, the names of the commodities in the case of which the Government have been successful in controlling the prices through Public Distribution System and the percentage thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a), (b) and (c). There has been an

increase in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of "all commodities" as well as in the WPI of rice, edible oils and sugar during the current financial year till 23.11.1991. In the case of wheat, the percentage variation in the WPI index was (-)0.5% compared to a significant increase of +26.0% during the corresponding period of last year.

The rise in prices of commodities may be attributed to many factors such as gap in demand and supply, increase in money supply in the economy, increase in prices of inputs to agriculture as well as transport. The Public Distribution System (PDS) is a supplemental effort aimed at ensuring equitable distribution of key essential commodities at pre-determined and reasonable prices. Public Distribution System is one component of the strategy to keep under check the rise in prices. The Government has taken a number of measures to curb money supply in the economy. Under the PDS, allocations of wheat and rice were increased during August to October, 1991. In an effort to increase availability further, open market sales of wheat and rice by Food Corporation of India have been permitted during October-December, 1991. Import of edible oils was resumed in October, 1991. Levy sugar allocations were increased by 5% on an adhoc basis for the period August to December, 1991.

[*English*]

#### Import of Pamolein Oil

3405. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are spending a huge amount for importing pamolein oil from Malaysia and other countries;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have decided to produce Pamolein Oil in India;