

1	2	3
April	05.04.97	6.99P
	12.04.97	6.64P
	19.04.97	6.54P
	26.04.97	6.35P

P= Provisional

(e) Nearly 40 per cent of the WPI based annual inflation rate at the end of March 1997 was contributed by the rise in the price of essential commodities. However, in the CPI-IW based inflation, the contribution was even higher (44 per cent) as on February 1997 because of higher weight of the food items in the CPI-IW.

(f) Apart from the demand side measures to contain monetary growth to 15-15.5% in 1997-98, as also limiting the fiscal deficit to 4.5% of GDP, the Government shall continue to undertake effective supply side measures such as improved delivery and targeting through public distribution system, augmenting of public stocks of foodgrains through imports if necessary, as also liberal trade policy for import of critical essential commodities such as edible oils, pulses and sugar. Reduction in Bank lending rates as also further reduction and rationalization in excise and custom duty rates is expected to improve further the competitiveness of the industry and thus check escalation in prices.

[English]

Tatkal Scheme

*546. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the success of modified "Tatkal" scheme;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the number of cooking gas connections so far released in each State under the said "Tatkal" gas connection scheme;

(d) the number of LPG agencies allotted under this scheme;

(e) the extent to which this scheme has affected the poor, waiting in the queue for long periods;

(f) whether it is proposed to review the implementation of the scheme; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The modified Tatkal scheme has been imple-

mented effective 20th February, 1997 and it has received overwhelming response from the customers in the country.

(c) The number of LPG connections released under the modified Tatkal Scheme throughout the country till 30.4.97 is 506164.

(d) All existing distributors have been authorised to release LPG connections under Tatkal Scheme.

(e) The waitlisted registrants will not be adversely affected by the Tatkal Scheme because at present only 10% of the annual enrolment plan has been reserved for release of LPG connections under Tatkal Scheme and balance 90% enrolment has been reserved for release of connections against waiting list, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas priorities, releases in Hill market and Taj Trapezium area etc. Moreover, the enrolment being made so far this year is almost double of previous year and more persons will get connections from the waiting list.

(f) The release of LPG connections under Tatkal Scheme is an ongoing activity; hence constant review is being made in the implementation of the scheme.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

Loan to Air Operators

*547. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review loan norms to provide funds to private air operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present position of the proposal;

(c) whether the Government also propose to review loan norms to provide funds to small and medium traders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Airline Industry is like any other industry and credit is extended to it within the framework of guidelines as applicable to the Industrial Sector. As part of the Monetary and Credit Policy for the first half of 1997-98, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced on April 15, 1997, several measures in order to improve credit delivery system. Two important measures announced by RBI, having bearing on financing of private air operators, are :

(i) It would not be obligatory on the part of banks to form a consortium even if the credit limit per borrower exceeds Rs. 50 crore. The need based finance required by the borrowers may, therefore, be extended by banks either entirely on their own, subject to observance of exposure limits or in association with others banks. As an alternative to sole/multiple banking/consortium arrangement, banks are free to adopt syndication route, irrespec-

tive of quantum of credit involved, if the arrangement suits the borrower and the financing banks.

(ii) Banks have been given full operational freedom in assessing the working capital requirements of borrowers. Accordingly, banks are now free to evolve their own methods of assessing the working capital requirements of borrowers within the prudential guidelines and exposure norms, already prescribed. The loan policy in respect of each broad category of industry shall be laid down by every bank with the approval of its Board of Directors. All earlier instructions relating to maximum permissible bank finance have been withdrawn.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that there is no proposal at present to review the guidelines issued by it for financing small traders by commercial banks under priority sector lending. As regards medium traders, as part of monetary and credit policy measures announced by RBI on April 15, 1997, banks are free to evolve their own methods/norms for assessing the working capital requirement of medium traders, within the prudential guidelines and exposure norms.

[*Translation*]

Consumption of Petroleum Products

*548. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA:

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and consumption of Petrol and petroleum products by each of the vital sectors in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the consumption has rapidly increased during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons for the increase;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curtail

consumption of petrol and petroleum products in each of the vital sectors; and

(e) the success achieved in conservation of petrol and petroleum products in monetary terms during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
(a) The sector-wise consumption of major petroleum products during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (April-January) is given in the attached Statement.

(b) and (c) The consumption of petroleum products increased during the above period. This is mainly due to increase in the economic activities of the country in various sectors including industry, transport, etc.

(d) Curbing the consumption of petroleum products would have an adverse impact on the growth of the economy of the Country.

The Government have initiated various steps to promote conservation of petroleum products in the transport, industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors. These include adoption of measures and practices which are conducive to increase fuel efficiency and training programme in the transport sector, modernisation of boilers, furnaces and other oil operated equipments with efficient ones and promotion of fuel efficient practices and equipment in the industrial sector; standardisation of fuel efficient irrigation pumpsets and rectification of existing pumpsets to make them more energy efficient in the agricultural sector and development as well as promotion of the use of fuel efficient equipment and appliances like kerosene and LPG stoves in the household sector.

(d) As a result of various measures taken for conservation of petroleum products, an estimated saving of Rs. 838 crores, Rs. 969 crores and Rs. 1102 crores was achieved during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

Statement

Demand/Consumption of Petrol and Petroleum Products

('000' Tonnes)

Year	Consumption	Total % Growth	Petrol	% Growth
1993-94	60812	-	3834	-
1994-95	65487	7.7	4141	8.0
1995-96	72569	10.8	4679	13.0
1996-97*	77219	6.4	4980	6.4

* : Provisional.

Note : It is presumed that the total petrol is being consumed by transport sector only.