

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of public to the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to extend LPG Marketing in rural areas, while formulating the LPG Plan 1996-98. It was decided to set up new LPG distributorships in the following areas also :

- (i) Wherever feasible, all towns with a population of 5,000 and above, including villages within 15 Kms. radius, to make a viable distributorship.
- (ii) Wherever feasible, all villages with a population of 10,000 and above, including the villages within 15 Kms. radius, to make a viable distributorship.

Accordingly, a total of 1702 distributorships have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plan for 1996-98. Of these, 401 are for rural areas only.

Applications for above distributorships are being advertised currently and selections are to be made by the Dealer Selection Boards on the basis of interview of eligible candidates, who will be responsible to set up distributorships, within specified period.

(c) and (d) Oil Industry is conducting several programmes including oil conservation week every year to create awareness among the masses about oil conservation. Under this programme the following activities are conducted to bring awareness in the use of innovative methods and efficient equipments for conservation of petroleum products.

1. Seminars in Schools/Colleges
2. Seminars with consumer Associations
3. Painting/Debate/Essay Competitions in School/Colleges
4. Wide Spread Messages Through TV/Radio
5. Display of Banners/Hoardings
6. Distributions of Safety/Conservation Literature/Leaflets, Etc.
7. Participation in Kisan Melas and setting up Demonstration Centres in Rural Areas.

Customers/public have appreciated the efforts of the industry in organising various conservation activities in order to promote/propagate awareness and need for conservation of petroleum products.

Price/Import of Edible Oils

*99. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been considerable rise in the prices of edible oils in the country during the last three years, till date;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and percentage of hike in various edible oils, separately during the said period;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the prices and blackmarketing of edible oils;
- (d) whether the Government had imported edible oils during the said period to normalise their supply; and
- (e) if so, the impact or import on the prices of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (c) and (e) The prices of edible oils in 1996 and 1997 have been markedly depressed as compared to those in 1995. However, recently, in April and May, 1998, these prices have risen sharply. The ruling prices in the period January-May for the years 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 are given in the enclosed statements - I, II and III.

The recent hike in prices is on account of the following significant factors :-

- (i) A moderate drop in domestic oilseed production in current oil year.
- (ii) Marked hardening of international oil prices, mainly on account of financial instability and civil unrest in Indonesia, a major supplier or international edible oil.
- (iii) Hardening of the Dollar value against the rupee.

Under the EXIM Policy, import of edible oils has been on OGL since April, 1994. The import duty on edible oils has been progressively reduced from 65% in 1994 to the current level of 25%. availing of this 'Import Window', required quantities of edible oils have been imported from time to time to supplement domestic availability.

(d) Yes Sir.

Statement-I

Price Comparison/Variations of Major Edible oils during (January, 1995 – May, 1995) to (January, 1996 to May, 1996)

(Rs. per quintal)

Year 1995	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	Year 1996	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	% increase/decrease		
								G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil
January	3795	3480	3580	January	3609	2883	3571	(-)4.9	(-)17.16	No change
February	4030	3515	3600	February	3626	2705	3349	(-)10.0	(-)23.04	(-)6.97
March	4100	3390	3450	March	3626	2689	3244	(-)11.56	(-)20.67	(-)5.97
April	4135	3340	3250	April	3864	3010	3000	(-)6.55	(-)9.88	(-)7.69
May	4060	3205	3150	May	3805	2890	3167	(-)6.28	(-)9.80	No change

Statement-II

Price Comparison in Major Edible oils during (January, 1995 – May, 1995) to (January, 1997 to May, 1997)

(Rs. per quintal)

Year 1995	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	Year 1997	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	% Variation		
								G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil
January	3795	3480	3580	January	3451	2965	3337	(-)9.0	(-)14.8	(-)6.78
February	4030	3515	3600	February	3411	2813	3257	(-)15.34	(-)19.98	(-)9.52
March	4100	3390	3450	March	3433	2791	3020	(-)16.27	(-)17.67	(-)12.46
April	4135	3340	3250	April	3630	2900	3046	(-)12.21	(-)13.17	(-)6.28
May	4060	3205	3150	May	3593	2819	3056	(-)11.5	(-)12.04	(-)2.98

Statement-III

Price Comparison of Major Edible oils during (January, 1995 – May, 1995) to (January, 1998 to May, 1998)

(Rs./quintal)

Year 1995	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	Year 1998	G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil	% increase/decrease		
								G.Nut Oil	Palmolein Oil	Mustard Oil
January	3795	3480	3580	January	3614	3053	2887	(-)4.77	(-)12.27	(-)19.36
February	4030	3515	3600	February	3671	3183	2932	(-)8.9	(-)9.4	(-)22.9
March	4100	3390	3450	March	3730	3387	3104	(-)9.0	(-)0.0	(-)10.0
April	4135	3340	3250	April	4340	3618	3680	(+)4.96	(+)8.32	(+)13.2
May	4060	3205	3150	May	4170	3870	3760	(+)2.7	(+)20.74	(+)19.34