

present. Incidence of serious forms of childhood TB is on the decline, and extensive exudative lesions are less frequently seen.

(c) to (e) The Government has not set up any expert committee to look into the progress in the implementation of the Programme.

(f) Under the National TB Programme 466 Districts Tuberculosis Centres (DTCs) have been established which provide free diagnostic and treatment facilities to the community. To reduce the period of treatment, short course chemotherapy has been introduced in 292 DTCs. The entire requirement of anti-TB Drugs for the DTCs is being met by the Central Government.

Under the National TB Control Programme, the treatment completion rates remained between 30 to 40%. To achieve a cure rate of 85%, the revised implementation strategy was introduced in 20 pilot sites covering population of about 20 million. Now with the World Bank Assistance, this revised strategy will be implemented in 102 Districts of the Country over the next three years. Further, 203 Short Course Chemotherapy Districts are proposed to be strengthened as a transitional step for adoption of revised strategy.

Dual Citizenship

*95. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian settled abroad have been granted double citizenship in many countries;

(b) if so, the details of the countries who grant dual citizenship;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to adopt the same policy of granting dual citizenship; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Such details are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) An Inter-Ministerial Committee is examining this issue.

Prices of Essential Commodities

*96. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADoba MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether there is a sharp increase in the prices of essential commodities such as wheat, rice, sugar, bread, milk, edible oils and various spices during 1997 and the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the percentage of increase during the last three years till date, item-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check price-rise of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the percentage variation to wholesale price index of essential commodities like wheat, rice, sugar, bread, mild, edible oils and spices for last three years (upto 9.5.1998) is attached. The main reasons for the rise in price of certain essential commodities are the increased demand due to increase in population, nearly stagnant and lower production of certain commodities, existing gap in demand and supply of selected items like pulses, vegetable oils etc., rise in the cost of their inputs and lower imports due to higher prices in international market.

(c) 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 being permitted in order to augment the total availability of these items. Government has decided to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat through State Trading Corporation to augment its availability. Some of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, imported palmolein and kerosene are also supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken 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. by the State/ UT Governments.

Statement

Annual percentage variation in wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities during 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 (upto 9.5.98).

Commodity	1995	1996	1997	1998
	1	3	4	5
Rice	4.5	13.0	1.7	0.4
Wheat	-1.6	33.3	-3.4	-6.3