

able figures for 1980 and 1979 are 0.8 per cent and 3.0 per cent.

Taking the financial year as a whole, the increase in prices upto 29th October, 1983 has been 7.7 per cent as against 5.1 per cent last year, 3.7 per cent in 1981-82, 11.3 per cent in 1980-81 and 15.7 per cent in 1979-80. The annual rate of inflation on a point-to-point basis on 29th October was 8.8 per cent as compared with 6.9 per cent on 30th July 1983, and 6.5 per cent at the beginning of the financial year.

As I had informed the house in August, prices of certain specific items, particularly, rice, pulses, edible oils, khansari, gur, fruits and vegetables, and tea had increased rather sharply during the current financial year upto end of July 1983. Since then upto the end of October in the wake of an excellent kharif crop, prices of rice, wheat and fruits & vegetables have come down by 3.1 per cent, 0.2 per cent and 7.3 per cent respectively. Prices of coarse grains like jowar, bajra and maize have declined between 1.6 per cent and 13.9 per cent. However, prices of gur and tea have continued to increase. Similarly, coffee and edible oil prices have also increased by 4.9 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively. Taken as a whole, some commodity groups, namely, food articles and food products have shown an increase of 1.8 per cent in the last three months. These items also figure prominently in the Consumer Price Index, which during the period April to September has shown an increase of 10.4 per cent. As Hon'ble Members are aware, the increase in prices of above mentioned item reflects largely the after-effects of the severe drought experienced in the previous kharif, and the effect of certain specific factors such as increase in international prices of tea.

In my statement in August, I had given an account of the measures taken by the Government to contain the price rise. Among these measures are: decision to import rice and wheat, stepping up the releases of foodgrains, sugar and edible oils through the public distribution systems; reduction in fertilizer prices;

increase in the cash reserve ratio from 7 to 8.5 per cent in two phases and an intensive effort to maximise the kharif output. Since then, the kharif prospects have become more certain and the target of foodgrains production of 142 million tonnes during the current year is expected to be reached. The Government has also decided to further step up releases of foodgrains and edible oils through the public distribution system, and to regulate the releases of sugar in a manner which would have a sobering effect on prices of sweetening agents. On the demand side, the Reserve Bank of India has announced further steps to absorb excess liquidity with the banking system. The scheduled commercial banks will be required to maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio of 10 per cent of the increase in net demand and time liabilities. Prices of selected industrial products have also been reduced as a result of reduction in excise duties on some items facing demand recession.

The Government is hopeful that the above measures and the bright prospects for the kharif crop will strengthen the seasonal decline in prices in the coming weeks. However, as I have so often said in his house, the behaviour of prices in our country is a complex matter and requires continuous and close monitoring and surveillance. Even a small decline in the availability of specific items, or an unanticipated change in the domestic or international market can easily disturb the prices situation. I, therefore, once again seek the cooperation of this House in continued efforts to contain inflation.

12.40 hrs.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT RE-DISCUSSION ON STATEMENT ON PRICE SITUATION

MR. SPEAKER : In connection with the discussion under Rule 193 on the statement made by the Finance Minister regarding price situation, to-day, copies of the statement are available at the publication counter.

[Mr. Speaker]

Members may please collect copies therefrom.

Mr. Sethi.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SYAMY  
(Bombay North East): What about Discussion under 193 ?

MR. SPEAKER : After 377. Mr. Sethi.

12.41 hrs-

**ILLEGAL MIGRANTS (DETERMINATION BY TRIBUNALS) BILL\***

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI P. C. SETHI : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of tribunals for the determination, in a fair manner, of the question whether a person is an illegal migrant to enable the Central Government to expel illegal migrants from India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of tribunals for the determination, in a fair manner, of the question whether a person is an illegal migrants to enable the Central Government to expel illegal migrants from India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

Shri Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of the Bill. There are various reasons for my opposition.

12.42 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

to the introduction. I have already mentioned a few. One ground of my opposition is this. You will certainly

know if you come to the very first paragraph of the Bill. It constitutes nothing but the nullification of the solemn commitment made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the leaders at that time regarding the protection to the victims of the Partition. The commitment, if I am allowed to remind the House, was given to the House and to the nation that the victims of partition would be the flesh of our flesh and the blood which, in actual terms means that the Government of India, at that time, was prepared to afford all kinds of protection to those minorities in Pakistan created after Partition. That is they would be afforded all kinds of help and assistant if they took shelter in India to save themselves from atrocities, harassments and all civil disturbances in that part of Pakistan.

Sir, the opening paragraph unmistakably reflects, what should I say, the shameful shift of the attitude of the Government. It reflects the utter, cynical disregard, to the national commitment made by the national leaders at the time of Partition. This is a shameful betrayal and shift of the policy. I have got no time to elaborate on it now. I shall do so later.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Be short. We have to take up this discussion.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I want five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Five minutes is too much. Then you will yourself say that we have no time to discuss the important discussion.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Kindly listen to me. This is very important. This Parliament, as the representative of the people of India, is entitled to remind the House and the Nation of the solemn Commitment that was made in the early fifty or early 1949 or early forty. Before the days of Partition, a solemn pledge was given to the people of that part of the country regarding protection, safety and