

taken up with the State Governments concerned and is receiving their attention.

[*Translation*]

Check on Hike in Prices

1887. SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the wholesale and retail market prices of cement, bricks, iron (steel) rods fertilizer, angle iron, edible oil, vegetable oil in November 1989;

(b) the preset retail and wholesale market prices of the said commodities at the end of July, 1990;

(c) the reason for the spurt in the prices; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take towards price control?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Statement-I indicating the wholesale price indices of the specified items during November 1989 and during week ending 28.7.1990 and Statement-II containing the real/consumer prices are given below

(c) and (d). Cement: The main reasons for rise in the prices of cement are firming up of demand, rise in the cost of inputs and distribution costs and localised infrastructural/production constraints. The Government is closely and continually monitoring the availability of coal, wagons and other infrastructural support to the cement industry with a view of increasing production and making cement available in adequate quantities. The

State Governments have been requested to ensure that there is no profiteering at the retail level as also to intervene in the market by purchasing through their designated agencies in bulk and distributing it among the needy people.

Brick: The wholesale price index of fire-bricks show no increase during the period November, 1989 to end July, 1990. The retail prices of bricks during the period December, 1989 to March, 1990 (latest available data) show that there was no increase in Delhi, Madras and Bangalore. However, there was a marginal increase in the retail prices at Trivandrum.

Iron (steel rods and angle iron): Prices of some items produced by the integrated steel plants are administered by the integrated steel plants under the aegis of the Joint Plan Committee. Secondary producers fix their own prices depending on market conditions. The primary reasons for increase in the prices fixed by the Joint Plan Committee with regard to iron and steel items is the increase in the rates of excise duty made effective from 20.3.1990 as per the Central Budget for 1990-91.

Fertilizers: The wholesale price index of fertilizers remained unchanged during the period November 1989-July 1990. The same is true of the consumer prices for the farmers as well.

Edible Oil and Vegetable oil: Prices of edible oils have registered a sharp rise in recent months (particularly since December, 1989) due to a lower oil seeds crop in the 1989-90 season. In order to check the increase in their prices, several steps are being taken. These include, among other things, giving exemption/rebate on excise duties, reduction in stock limits on retailers and wholesalers, blending of conventional oils with non-conventional oils and stepping up of supplies of imported edible oils through

public distribution system. Due to constraints of foreign exchange for higher and liberal imports, a judicious mix of supply management strategy has been evolved to contain the increase in the edible oils prices. The Central

government, from time to time, has been writing to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for taking stern action against speculators, hoarders, black marketeers and other anti-social elements.

STATEMENT-I

Change in Wholesale Price Index of Selected Items (Base: 1981-82)

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Index for November 1989</i>	<i>Index for week ending 28.7.1990 (Provisional)</i>	<i>%age change Col. 3 Col. 2</i>
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Cement	152.4	169.9	+ 11.5
2.	Fire Bricks	117.5	117.5	No change
3.	Bars and Rods	193.9	195.4	+ 0.8
4.	Fertilizers	99.1	99.1	No change
5	Angles, Channels and Sections	200.8	203.5	+ 1.3
6.	Edible Oils	179.0	217.3	+ 21.4
7.	Vanaspati	198.2	231.6	+16.9

Source : Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Industry.

STATEMENT-II

Retail Prices/Consumer Prices of Selected Items

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>November 1989</i>			<i>July 1990</i>
1	2	3	4	5	
1.	<i>Cement (Rs. per bag)</i>				
	Delhi	76 to 78		92 to 95	
	Calcutta	83 to 88		85 to 92	
	Bombay	82 to 85		90 to 95	
	Madras	69 to 74		84 to 87	
2.	<i>Brcks* (Rs. per 1000 Numbers)</i>				
	Delhi	182.00		182.00	
	Madras	900.00		700.00	
	Bangalore	600.00		600.00	
	Trivandrum	490.00		500.00	

* The prices are for December, 1989 and March, 1990 instead of for November, 1989 and July, 1990.

Source: National Buildings Organisation.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>November 1989</i>	<i>July 1990</i>
1	2	3	4
3.	<i>Bars and Rods (JPC Base Price: Rs. per tonne)</i>		
	5.5 to 12 mm	6610	6715
	Above 12 to 36 mm	6360	6465
	Above 36 mm	6410	6515
	Unequal Angles and Z Sections		
		8360	8465
<i>Source: Department of Steel.</i>			
4.	<i>Fertilizers (Maximum sale price for the farmer: Rs. per tonne)</i>		
	Urea (46% N)	2350	2350
	Ammonium Sulphate (21% N)	1650	1650
	Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (25% N)	1700	1700
	Di-ammonium Phosphate (18:46:0)	3600	3600

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>November 1989</i>	<i>July 1990</i>
1	2	3	4
	Single Super Phosphate (16% P 205)	950	950

Source: Department of Fertilizers.

5. *Edible Oils and Vegetable Oil** (Rs. per kg.)*

A)	Vanaspati		
	Delhi	26.60	34.45
	Bombay	29.00	39.00
	Bhubaneshwar	30.00	38.00
	Madras	29.00	39.00
B)	Groundnut Oil		
	Ahmedabad	22.00	34.00
	Bhopal	24.00	32.60
	Bombay	26.00	33.00
	Madras	23.00	33.00

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>November 1989</i>	<i>July 1990</i>
1	2	3	4
C)	Mustard Oil		
	Delhi	20.70	29.45
	Patna	21.00	30.00
	Bhubaneshwar	20.00	33.00
	Cuttack	20.00	31.50

** The prices given are for 25.11.1989 and 1.8.1990 instead of for November, 1989 and July, 1990.

Source: Department of Civil Supplies.