

and the amount involved in each case; and

(b) the number of such cases detected on Indo-Pak border and the amount involved therein and the details of seized items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Inflation Rate

8336. SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative details of the rate of inflation between the first quarter of the year 1989 and the first quarter of the year 1990;

(b) the comparative increase in the

wholesale and retail price index during the same period; and

(c) whether Government have fixed any target or limit to check inflation and to reduce price-hike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The rate of inflation on the basis of the average WPI for the first quarter over the average of first quarter of the previous year works out to 8.2 per cent in 1990 as against 5.5 per cent in 1989.

(b) There is no index for retail prices. However, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Industrial Workers which is based on retail prices of goods (and services) paid by consumers, is the nearest approximation. Comparative price rise in WPI and CPI for the first quarter is given below:

<i>First Quarter of the Year (March over December)</i>	<i>Price Rise (point to point) in</i>	
	<i>WPI</i>	<i>CPI</i>
	<i>(1981-82=100)</i>	<i>(1990=100)</i>
1989	1.7	No change
1990	2.8	1.1.

(c) It is not feasible to fix any target or limit to check inflation. However, efforts are being made to check inflation by use of instruments available to the Government which include maintaining supplies of essential commodities, if necessary through imports, strict fiscal and monitoring discipline including close monitoring of budgetary deficit action against hoarders and black-marketeers.

[English]

Production of Aluminium Foils

8337. SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of Aluminium foil in the country;