

(b) the number of times prices of these articles increased during the last three years;

(c) whether due to the rise in the prices of these commodities, the prices of coal based products and other goods have also increased; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide relief to common man from this price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The prices of petrol, coal and some other items were increased at different dates during December 1987--February 1988.

(b) and (c). Since January 1985 prices of petrol were revised three times, and those of coal and steel two times. Issue prices of sugar were revised four times in line with revision in minimum statutory price of sugarcane and those of important edible oils twice.

The prices of coal-based products and other goods, apart from administered items, are determined by conditions of supply and demand. Increases in input costs get passed on to prices of final products after a time lag, depending on market and other conditions.

(d) The measures taken by the Government to keep the price rise under check include enhanced distribution of foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS); relief programmes and employment programmes; strengthening of PDS with the opening of additional outlets; import of essential commodities like pulses, edible oils and sugar; strict economy in government expenditure; mopping up of excess liquidity in the economy by raising Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio; imposition of selective credit controls and intensive action against hoarders and profiteers. Prices are closely being monitored at various levels to facilitate prompt action.

Mechanisms also exist for periodic revision of compensation to various groups viz. employees of the Central/State governments, employees in the public sector,

workers in the organised sector, agricultural labourers etc. The procurement/minimum support prices paid to the farmers for their products are also revised from time to time in line with the increase in input costs.

Income Tax on Funds Collected by Organisers of Film Star Nites

*67. SHRI SAMBHAJIRAO KAKADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the 'NITES' organised by individuals and institutions associating the names of film stars and renowned singers for collection of funds;

(b) whether organisers of such 'NITES' have to obtain permission from the Excise and Income-Tax Department; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the amount collected by the organisers of these 'NITES' is held income-tax free; and

(d) the details of such 'NITES' organised during the last two years in various cities including the amount of funds collected by the organisers and allowed as income-tax free and whether any of such funds were handed over to the film stars or singers whose names were associated with the 'NITES'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such provision either under the Income-tax Act or under the Central Excise Law.

(c) The net income arising from the holding of such 'NITES' is liable to income tax. However, if such a 'NITE' is organised by a charitable society/association etc. the income of which is exempt from income-tax under any other provisions of the Income-tax Act i.e., section 10 or section 11, the net income from the holding of such a

'NITE' may also be exempt in the hands of such charitable society/association provided the income is spent for the charitable objects of that society/association.

(d) There is no system of centrally collecting and collating such information in ordinary course of business.

Price of Controlled Cloth

*70. SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep rise in the prices of the controlled cloth meant for poor people;

(b) if so, the present rates of all the varieties of controlled cloth and how do they compare with earlier rates and the reasons for increase in their prices;

(c) whether the availability of controlled cloth in the rural areas is scarce; and

(d) the steps taken to make the controlled cloth available in adequate quantity to meet the needs of the weaker sections of the population in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The average consumer prices in respect of controlled cloth (Dhoti, Saree, Long Cloth (cotton varieties) and polyester cotton) during January, 1988 as compared to the prices during the corresponding period of previous year are as under:--

(Average price/per sq. metre (Rs.))

Period	<i>Dhoti</i>	<i>Saree</i>	<i>Long</i>	<i>Polyester</i>	
	Consumer Price	Consumer Price	<i>Cloth</i> Consumer Price	<i>Cotton</i> Consumer Price	
				Bld.	Dyed
January					
1987	3.52	4.20	5.20	10.50	11.50 ²
January					
1988	4.59	5.68	6.39	10.50	11.50

The consumer price of cotton controlled cloth has gone up on account of the steep rise in the cost of inputs including cotton, power and wages, the consumer subsidy, which was fixed in 1981, remaining unchanged.

(c) The Textile Policy Statement, 1985 envisaged the transfer of controlled cloth from NTC to the Handloom sector. With the gradual transfer of the production of controlled cloth to the Handloom Sector, the availability of controlled cloth, as such, would be progressively reduced. However, there has been increase in production of

similar cloth i.e. Janta cloth in the Handloom Sector.

(d) The Central Government does not directly distribute the controlled cloth. The controlled cloth produced by NTC is passed on, through NCCF, to various State Marketing Federations and Consumer Cooperatives which sell the cloth to the target population in the rural areas.

Working of Stock Exchanges

*71. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: