

tions, including the question of repatriation of prisoners of war". Accordingly, the matter has been taken up with Pakistan.

RISE IN WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX

*314. SHRI NIREN GHOSH :
SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KO-
CHAKI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether wholesale price index has moved up in May, 1982 in four successive weeks;

(b) what is the reason for this;

(c) has the consumer price index risen or fallen during the last one year;

(d) in what way is the rise and fall of wholesale price index reflected in the consumer price index;

(e) is the money supply being increased; and

(f) how does it compare with that of last year ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Wholesale Price Index (1970-71=100) for the weeks ended 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th May, 1982 was 276.3, 277.0, 278.8, 278.9 and 280.6 respectively. The renewed pressure on prices in May was due mainly to seasonal factors.

(c) and (d) The All-India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (1960=100) increased till November 1981, then showed a decline in the following four months from 462 in November 1981 to 457 in March, 1982. The index for April and May was 459 and 462 respectively. Despite differences in scope, coverage, weights and base years, the Wholesale and Consumer Price Indices have, by and large, moved in the same direction with a certain time-lag.

(e) and (f) Monetary and credit policy is kept under constant review and necessary changes are made in the light of the emerging situation. The expansion in aggregate monetary resources (M_3) during the current financial year (upto July 2, 1982) has been somewhat smaller

at Rs. 3074 crores or 4.9 per cent, than Rs. 3174 crores or 5.7 per cent in the corresponding period of 1981-82.

AIR INDIA TO LOSE CARGO OPERATIONS IN U.S.A.

*315. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI AJIT BAG :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Air India is going to lose its cargo operations in U.S.A. soon;

(b) if so, the details of the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether some alternative measures have also been chalked out by Government to meet the situation and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same in details ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA) : (a) to (d) Air India at present operates cargo services to U.S.A. with two DC-8 freighter aircraft taken on wet-lease from Flying Tiger Company of U.S.A. The wet-lease agreement expires on 31st August, 1982. Air India has informed that it does not propose to renew the wet-lease arrangement with this company and propose to take on wet-lease two aircraft from another airline for cargo operations to U.S.A. There is thus no likelihood of Air India losing its cargo operations to U.S.A.

अभ्रक के निर्यात में गिरावट

*316. श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि "ग्रेड सं 05 और डाउन" अभ्रक को भारतीय अभ्रक व्यापार निगम के साथ मिला देने के कारण अभ्रक के निर्यात में 50 प्रतिशत से लेकर 20 प्रतिशत तक की गिरावट आई है;

(ख) क्या भारतीय अभ्रक व्यापार निगम के संरक्षण में कार्य कर रहे हजारों छोटे अभ्रक व्यापारी तथा श्रमिक अपने जीवन निर्वाह के लिए