

Defence.

[*Translation*]

Hike in Price of Essential Commodities

7144. SHRIKALPNATH SONKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there has been a steep hike in the prices of sugar, rice, wheat, mustard oil and other food items in recent months; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce the price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) There has been a mixed trend in the behaviour of prices of selected essential items during the last 20 weeks (between 25.11.1989 and 14.4.1990). The Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) of some commodities like rice, wheat, *jowar*, gram, onions, chillies, sugar, *khandsari* during this period exhibited a declining trend. The WPI of some other commodities like *arhar*, fish, groundnut oil, mustard oil, coconut oil and gingelly oil have shown a rising trend during this period.

(b) The Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities. Both long term and short term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken by the Government broadly include steps to increase production of essential commodities like sugar, edible oils and tea etc. which are in short supply; effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains; strengthening of Public Distribution System; monitoring of price and availability situation; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; and augmenting domestic

supplies through imports, wherever necessary, to check any abnormal rise in prices.

[*English*]

Construction of Godowns in Kerala by Central Warehousing Corporation

7145. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Warehousing Corporation is undertaking construction of godowns in the State of Kerala during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) At present Central Warehousing Corporation has no proposal to construct any warehouse in the State of Kerala, during the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Number of Doctors in ESI Hospitals

7146. SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-items appearing in the Navbharat Times dated 7 April, 1990 captioned "paise to katate hain par uchit ilaj nahin";

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to increase the number of doctors in

ESI Corporation hospitals and dispensaries in view of the increasing number of patients?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The observations made in the newsitem regarding the working of the ESI medical scheme in Delhi are not specific. It has been the constant endeavour of the Corporation to further improve the services in ESI Hospitals/dispensaries. For this purpose, the Corporation has since divided ESI Hospitals/dispensaries in Delhi into four zones. Each of these zones will be in charge of an Additional Director (Inspections) whose job would be to monitor the performance of the doctors in the ESI Hospitals/dispensaries and to redress the grievance of the patients.

(c) The entitlement of doctors is reviewed every year, keeping in view the norms prescribed by the Corporation. Based on the review for the year ending December, 1988, 19 additional posts of doctors were sanctioned. The review for the year ending 31st December, 1989 is currently in progress.

[English]

Hike in Sugar Quota of Delhi

7147. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether citizens of Delhi get 800 grams of sugar per head in a month;

(b) whether Government propose to review the present ration quota of sugar and enhance the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAMPUJAN PATEL): (a) It has been reported by Delhi Administration that they are giving sugar at the rate of 800 grams per head per month.

(b) and (c). Keeping in view the present estimates of sugar production and stocks availability, it will not be possible to revise the norms of levy sugar allotments at present.

Over-Head Tanks in Government Residential Accommodation

7148. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unserviceable over-head tanks in Government residential accommodation in Delhi; accommodation-wise and area-wise;

(b) since when these are unserviceable;

(c) the reasons for the delay in the replacement thereof;

(d) whether the delay in the replacement of over-head tanks is causing not only the inconvenience to the residents but also a source of waste of precious drinking water; and

(e) if so, the details of steps taken to expeditiously replace the damaged over-head tanks?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.