

Consumer Price Index Numbers In Assam Up By 61 Points In One Year

GAUHATI, Aug. 18—The general rising trend of retail prices of essential commodities in Assam continued to hold good during the month of May, 1979. This has been reflected in the working class consumer price index numbers compiled by the Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Assam.

The all Assam consumer price index number for working class population worked out by taking the weighted average of index number for Gauhati, Silchar and Tinsukia (base 1949-100), which stood at 398 in the month of April, 1979 rose to 431 in the month of May, 1979. The corresponding index number for May, 1978 was 370. Thus the index for May, 1979 was higher by 33 points or 8.3 per cent when compared with the previous month and by 61 points or 16.5 per cent when compared with the corresponding month of last year.

The index number, however, is expected to come down during the month of June, 1979 owing mainly to the increase in quantum of rice distributed through fair price shops. A comparison of the retail prices in the month of June, 1979 with those of May, 1979 shows that the prices of rice, atta mugdal; potato gur fish (Small) and egg showed some increase and those of masurdal arhardal, gramdal; salt onion mustard oil vanaspati (loose) sugar milk meat clothing items (baby food yarn (20 counts), washing soap and writing paper remained more or less steady. During the period under report no decrease in prices of any item was reported.

The prices of rationed rice remained constant during the months of May and June, 1979.

The average price of rice purchased from open market in the three centres viz Gauhati, Silchar and Tinsukia in June was Rs 2.44 per kg. while the same in respect of rice supplied through fair price shops was Rs. 1.80 per kg.

When compared with the prices in the month of June 1978 some significant changes were

noticed in the month of June 1979. During the period of one year the prices of onion fish (small) mugdal and salt rose by 39, 28, 24 and 21 per cent respectively. The prices of rice, atta arhardal gramdal potato kerosene oil, vanaspati (loose) sugar milk meat egg clothing items baby food washing soap and writing paper also (20 counts) showed some decrease. The same in respect of mustard oil and baby food remained more or less steady.

Dibrugarh Fast Returning To Normal

GAUHATI, Aug. 18—The situation in the curfew-bound Dibrugarh town in upper Assam was fast returning to normal.

Official sources said the curfew was relaxed for 12 hours today and all offices, Bazaars and educational institutions functioned normally.

Dibrugarh was free from any incidents during the relaxation period.

Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister; Sri Golap Barborā today visited some areas of Dibrugarh town and met prominent citizens and high officials.—PTI

Assam Left Parties To Meet To-day

By A Staff Reporter
GAUHATI, Aug. 18—Representatives of four Left parties will meet here tomorrow to decide their future course of action in the context of the present political developments in the State.

Already the representatives of these parties—CPI (M), CPI, RCPI and RSP—met here last week and agreed to work in "close cooperation" to face the current political situation. Observers here have attached great significance on tomorrow's meeting of the Left parties which is likely to spell out its future course of action in regard to its attitude towards the Janata Government in the State. Needless to say that the survival of the Barborā Ministry, will greatly depend on the Left parties, particularly on the CPI (M) and RCPI which has strength of 11 and four members respectively in the House.

It is to be noted here that the CPI with a strength of six members in the Assembly has already demanded of the Governor that the Assembly should be convened immediately as the Barborā Ministry had been reduced to minority after the recent resignations.

So far there has been no change in the attitude of the CPI towards the present Janata Government and it is not known definitely if there will be any shift of their policy after the discussion in tomorrow's meeting.

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