

(c) the progress made so far to know their names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Information, including bank related information, is received from some of the countries under the provisions of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA). Sometimes foreign competent authorities, at their own initiative, share information about Indian residents under the relevant provisions of the DTAA's. The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) also receives financial intelligence/information from counterpart Financial Intelligence Units mainly through Egmont Secured Network. The information received under the DTAA's and through the Egmont Secured Network is governed by the relevant confidentiality provisions in the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements executed by India with the concerned country and can be disclosed only to authorities involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes covered by the DTAA.

Low inflation rate and prices of essential goods

1851. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that despite the lower inflation rate the prices of essential commodities are in increasing trend;

(b) if so, the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities since 1 April, 2008 in the market, month-wise;

(c) if not, the rate of inflation during this period, month-wise; and

(d) whether there is any relationship between the inflation rate and prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The year-on-year inflation measured by WPI for all commodities vis-a-vis 30 essential commodities, since April 2008 to June 2009 is indicated below. In the first week of July 2009, inflation in all commodities was (-) 1.21 per cent, as against inflation in essential commodities at 10.85 per cent.

	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09
All comm.	8.0	8.9	11.8	12.4	12.8	12.3	11.1	8.5	6.2	4.9	3.5	1.2	1.3	0.4	-1.4
Essential comm.	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.6	7.6	7.8	8.4	8.7	9.4	9.8	10.8	9.6	10.3	11.1	11.3

The month wise wholesale and retail prices of 16 essential commodities in India, mentioned on the website of the Department of Consumer Affairs, from April 2008 to July 2009 are indicated in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively (*See below*).

(d) The WPI is a weighted average of 435 commodities traded in the wholesale market, classified in three groups of primary articles (wt=22.02%), fuel, power and light (wt=14.23%) and manufactured products (63.75%). The fall in WPI inflation reflected the impact of the deceleration in global prices in items like fuels, metals and oilseeds, with the negative inflation in June stemming from a major decline in the fuel group and a lesser decline in the group of manufactured products, accruing from a high statistical base in the corresponding period in 2008. Despite the fall in overall inflation, inflation in essential commodities continues to remain high, on account of lower agricultural production in some crops, increase in the minimum support prices and growth in demand.

Statement-I

Month-wise All India average Wholesale and retail prices in 2008 (Rs./kg.)

All India Average Wholesale Prices of Essential Commodities-1st week of the month (Rs./kg)

Commodity	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08
Rice	13.66	14.02	14.35	14.90	14.81	15.06	15.17	15.08	15.29
Wheat	12.44	12.27	11.97	12.24	12.48	12.50	12.45	12.45	12.49
Atta	13.68	13.55	13.24	13.47	13.56	13.60	13.46	13.46	13.52
Gram	32.77	32.13	31.77	31.14	32.75	32.96	32.74	32.49	31.75
Tur	37.29	36.60	37.15	37.70	40.36	41.27	42.16	42.85	42.72
Sugar	15.99	16.03	16.05	16.11	17.23	18.78	18.99	18.73	18.88
Gur	14.78	15.45	15.84	16.02	17.18	17.96	18.2	18.57	18.41
Groundnut Oil	81.28	81.5	81.82	83.84	84.48	83.06	81.54	80.89	79.93
Mustard Oil	70.89	67.97	69.25	76.06	77.35	77.91	77.55	77.41	76.98
Vanaspati	64.18	60.37	60.47	62.56	61.76	60.02	56.57	55.01	53.64
Tea (Loose)	101.07	101.85	105.02	108.02	130.88	132.22	133.77	134.43	134.43
Milk	16.18	16.74	17.06	17.42	17.49	17.68	17.68	17.68	17.49
Potato	6.13	6.07	6.09	6.12	6.46	6.94	7.03	7.13	6.85
Onion	6.39	5.93	5.74	5.95	8.18	9.04	8.89	8.69	10.46
Salt (Pack)	6.89	7.14	7.27	7.46	7.62	7.66	7.74	7.78	7.91
Salt (Loose)	2.63	2.71	2.85	2.90	3.18	3.19	3.19	3.19	3.19

All India Average Retail Prices of Essential Commodities-1st week of the month (Rs./kg)

Commodity	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08
Rice	15.24	15.67	15.82	16.61	16.59	16.76	16.75	16.61	16.66
Wheat	13.76	13.72	13.26	13.40	13.52	13.81	13.81	13.70	13.75
Atta	15.29	15.24	15.01	15.11	15.18	15.36	15.41	15.36	15.39
Gram	35.54	34.96	34.29	34.37	35.86	36.21	35.97	35.49	35.15
Tur	39.96	39.92	40.56	41.29	43.25	44.41	44.92	45.62	45.68
Sugar	17.05	17.17	17.16	17.17	17.86	20.76	20.52	20.21	20.21
Gur	17.10	17.53	18.00	18.33	19.19	20.47	20.59	20.73	20.83
Groundnut Oil	86.00	85.59	86.1	89.11	88.82	87.17	86.72	85.81	84.45
Mustard Oil	73.78	71.46	73.46	80.35	80.97	81.84	81.01	104.08	80.63
Vanaspati	67.33	64.36	63.84	67.2	67.25	64.04	62.37	70.29	58.65
Tea (Loose)	128.28	130.66	130.19	131.71	131.77	133.85	135.12	135.33	136.91
Milk	19.77	20.00	20.18	20.35	20.40	21.01	20.93	20.85	20.82
Potato	8.28	8.11	8.47	8.33	8.71	9.03	9.15	9.27	8.97
Onion	8.44	8.03	7.87	7.91	9.72	11.66	11.26	11.85	13.47
Salt (Pack)	8.31	8.54	8.62	8.66	8.91	9.01	9.07	9.07	9.22
Salt (Loose)	3.45	3.53	3.59	3.58	3.89	3.91	3.93	3.93	3.93

Statement-II

Month-wise All India average Wholesale and retail prices in 2009 (Rs./kg.)

All India Average Wholesale Prices of Essential Commodities-1st week of the month (Rs./kg)

Commodity	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rice	15.20	15.29	15.23	15.36	15.55	15.52	15.38
Wheat	12.49	12.65	12.78	12.82	12.72	12.73	12.68
Atta	13.54	13.69	13.84	13.86	13.81	13.74	13.82
Gram	31.46	31.02	31.25	30.55	30.55	30.06	29.92
Tur	42.72	43.68	44.61	45.5	47.37	48.92	52.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sugar	19.18	20.24	21.13	21.43	22.61	23.00	23.63
Gur	18.68	19.44	19.47	19.55	21.14	23.12	24.05
Groundnut Oil	79.67	78.33	77.46	76.15	77.14	76.6	75.34
Mustard Oil	77.19	76.22	74.91	71.17	70.18	69.45	68.03
Vanaspati	52.75	50.03	50.16	47.51	48.23	49.65	48.76
Tea (Loose)	134.43	135.1	135.77	138.4	139.92	141.3	141.13
Milk	17.54	17.54	17.72	17.99	17.99	18.54	18.54
Potato	6.31	5.97	6.05	6.62	7.35	8.42	9.49
Onion	11.95	12.57	12.3	11.29	10.18	9.15	9.66
Salt (Pack)	7.91	7.93	7.92	8.05	8.04	8.17	8.24
Salt (Loose)	3.22	3.22	3.20	3.21	3.21	3.23	3.47

All India Average Retail Prices of Essential Commodities-1st week of the month (Rs./kg)

Commodity	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09
Rice	16.82	16.96	17.02	17.00	17.27	17.28	17.24
Wheat	13.86	13.91	13.95	14.10	14.07	14.02	14.02
Atta	15.49	15.54	15.55	15.58	15.53	15.51	15.50
Gram	34.64	34.36	34.35	34.06	34.22	33.76	33.74
Tur	45.66	46.38	47.7	48.24	50.69	51.97	54.86
Sugar	20.85	21.59	22.59	22.78	24.27	24.77	25.22
Gur	21.16	21.96	22.25	22.25	23.79	25.75	27.04
Groundnut Oil	83.9	83.31	82.59	82.03	82.47	82.02	81.5
Mustard Oil	81.43	80.43	78.93	76.20	75.10	74.20	72.54
Vanaspati	56.35	54.70	54.41	51.92	52.51	53.05	52.66
Tea (Loose)	139.71	139.79	141.68	144.91	146.44	147.32	147.74
Milk	21.08	21.11	21.14	21.25	21.39	21.64	21.72
Potato	8.42	8.01	7.92	8.54	9.39	10.54	11.93
Onion	15.82	16.05	15.54	14.53	13.08	11.59	11.92
Salt (Pack)	9.25	9.31	9.35	9.4	9.46	9.58	9.67
Salt (Loose)	3.93	4.07	4.07	4.11	4.11	4.14	4.14