

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The post of Adviser (Unani) in the Department of AYUSH has been vacant since 02.12.2006, after the repatriation of the incumbent officer on expiry of his contractual appointment. In the meantime, the Department initiated action to amend the Recruitment Rules for the said post for providing for a composite method of selection, with a view to widen the scope of the selection, in consultation with Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). This process including consultation with the UPSC took some time. However, keeping in view the legal position, it was decided that the existing vacancy should be filled up as per the existing Recruitment Rules and action for the proposed amendment of the Rules will be taken thereafter.

A proposal was moved on 3rd September, 2009, to UPSC for recommending a suitable departmental candidate for the said post by promotion as per the first option of the existing Recruitment Rules. The Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) met on 21st December, 2009 and found none of the serving departmental candidates in the zone of consideration as 'fit' for promotion to the post of Adviser (Unani). Thereafter, action has been taken for advertising for filling up the post by 'deputation including short term contract' as per the second option of the existing Recruitment Rules.

Issue of price rise

*174. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has discussed the issue of price rise with State Chief Ministers in February, 2010;

(b) if so, whether Government announced its decision to set up a standing core group of Chief Ministers and some Union Ministers to address both short term and long term issues relating to price rise;

(c) if so, whether it has been also discussed that the responsibility has to be shared by Government at Centre and in States and a coordinated approach has to be adopted to tackle this issue; and

(d) if so, to what extent these measures have helped in checking price rise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A conference of Chief Ministers to discuss the issues relating to prices of essential commodities was convened by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on 6th February, 2010. The conference, *inter alia*, was attended by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Chief Ministers/ Food Ministers from several States. The conference recommended to constitute a Standing Core Group of State Chief Ministers and concerned Central Ministers. The mandate of the Core Group is to deliberate on and recommend measures to:—

(i) Increase agricultural production and productivity (including long term policies for sustained agricultural growth);

- (ii) Reduce the gap between farm gate prices and retail prices;
- (iii) Better implementation of and amendment to Essential Commodities Act;
- (iv) Ensure better and effective delivery of essential commodities to the vulnerable sections of society;
- (v) Augmentation of warehousing and storage capacity (including cold chains);
- (vi) Issues relating to inputs viz. seeds/fertilizers etc.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has initiated action for constituting the Standing Core Group.

Further, the conference underscored the need to understand better the nature of the problems and the respective roles to be played by the Government of India and the State Governments in containing the price increase.

Several anti inflationary measures have been taken by the Government in recent past. As a result of these measures, inflation in Primary articles has declined from 16.23 per cent on 6th February, 2010 to 15.00 per cent on 20th February, 2010. The inflation in Fuel group has declined from 9.89 per cent on 6th February, 2010 to 9.59 per cent on 20th February, 2010. The following table gives decline in inflation in select commodities on 20th February, 2010 compared to 6th February, 2010.

WPI based inflation (Y-O-Y) for select commodities (%)

Commodities	6th February, 2010	20th February, 2010
Rice	9.64	9.62
Wheat	15.78	14.00
Potatoes	38.02	27.69
Onion	14.48	11.14
Arhar	54.92	48.54

Monitoring of NREGS works in Bihar

*175. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees to monitor the construction of roads/approach roads and other works under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) have been constituted in every district of Bihar;

(b) whether these Committees have ever met to consider the ongoing projects;

(c) if so, the number of such meetings held;

(d) whether any deficiency in the execution of the works has been noticed by these Committees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?