

oils, edible oilseeds, rice and paddy for the period upto 30.09.2010. The commodity wheat which had also been included in the above list has been removed *w.e.f.* 01.04.2009. Further, in respect of sugar, the Central Government have also issued Orders providing for stock-holding/turnover limits.

Statement

Details of WPI Inflation of Food Articles (%) during the last three years.

	Date in 2007	Inflation rate	Date in 2008	Inflation rate	Date in 2009	Inflation rate	Date in 2010	Inflation rate
January	6.1.2007	9.55	5.1.2008	1.86	3.1.2009	11.48	2.1.2010	18.63
February	3.2.2007	10.99	2.2.2008	2.05	7.2.2009	9.82	6.2.2010	18.67
March	3.3.2007	10.66	1.3.2008	5.47	7.3.2009	7.57	6.3.2010	16.30
April	7.4.2007	10.41	5.4.2008	4.76	4.4.2009	8.61	3.4.2010	17.22
May	5.5.2007	10.61	3.5.2008	6.09	2.5.2009	8.18		
June	2.6.2007	6.91	7.6.2008	6.36	6.6.2009	9.45		
July	7.7.2007	10.33	5.7.2008	5.29	4.7.2009	11.57		
August	4.8.2007	9.25	2.8.2008	6.84	1.8.2009	12.77		
September	1.9.2007	7.08	6.9.2008	7.16	5.9.2009	14.80		
October	6.10.2007	2.78	4.10.2008	10.19	3.10.2009	12.60		
November	3.11.2007	2.47	1.11.2008	9.79	7.11.2009	16.46		
December	1.12.2007	3.31	6.12.2008	10.28	5.12.2009	20.36		

*Source:*DIPP

N.B: The weekly WPI is released on Thursday-every week falling on the dates as indicated above.

Reserved stock of wheat and rice in FCI godowns

†3107. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that availability of wheat and rice in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) at the end of March, 2010 was more than quantity required for reserved stock;

(b) if so, the quantity estimated for required reserved stock and the quantity of actual stock of above two products;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether decision had been taken to sell wheat and rice in open market to decrease the quantity of this additional stock; and

(d) if so, the time and quantity of these products intended to sell by this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIR, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The actual stock of wheat in the Central Pool held with Food Corporation of India and State agencies at the end of March, 2010 is 161.25 lakh tonnes against the buffer norm of 40 lakh tonnes and strategic reserve of 30 lakh tonnes. Similarly the actual stock of rice in the Central Pool is 267.13 lakh tonnes against buffer norm of 122 lakh tonnes and strategic reserve of 20 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the comfortable stock position of wheat and rice, it was decided to allocate 20 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice to State Governments for sale to retail consumers during October, 09 to March, 2010 to check inflationary trends in food prices. It was also decided to allocate 10 lakh tonnes of wheat for tender sale to bulk consumers. Subsequently, a quantity of 10.81 lakh tones of wheat out of savings from allocations for retail consumers, was also allocated for bulk consumers. Separately, a quantity of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat for tender sale to small processors through FCI was allocated. The sale of wheat for retail consumers has been extended upto 30.06.2010 in North Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir and sale of rice for retail consumers has been extended upto 30.06.2010. Sale of wheat to bulk consumers through tenders has also been extended upto 30.06.2010 in non wheat procuring States.

Exploitation of farmers and consumers by middlemen

†3108. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the middlemen exploit both farmers and consumers in the process of sale and purchase of fruits, vegetables and milk, etc. with regard to the prices of these items;

(b) whether farmers are still selling their products at a very cheap rate as it was in the past, whereas the middlemen sell them in wholesale markets on higher rates more than 400 per cent of their purchase price; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to stop this exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIR, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) There is a large supply chain between producer and consumer with a number of intermediaries operating in the supply chain of agricultural produce. In the process of marketing of agricultural produce, multiple handling in the supply

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