

their States, by which a large number of garlic growers are getting assistance under different programmes. These measures will ultimately help in increasing the production of garlic and stabilizing their prices in the country.

PDS scam in Arunachal Pradesh

1115. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some persons have been arrested in PDS scam in Arunachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the findings of the investigation into this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

Price rise

†1116. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of decline in the rate of price-rise during current year as compared to last year;
- (b) whether it is a fact that despite decline in Government data the prices of fruits, vegetables, cement etc. have increased forty per cent more;
- (c) if so, the measures being taken by Government to contain price-rise; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The year on year rate of WPI inflation (rate of price rise) for all commodities during the current year rose from 8.56% in January, 2010 to 10.16% in May 2010 after which the rate decelerated and stood at 8.58% in October, 2010. The details are given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) Inflation rate of fruits remained high during the period and stood at 15.84% in October 2010. The vegetable WPI inflation rate which was negative during April 2010 to August 2010 rose thereafter and stood at 3.68% in October 2010. Cement inflation rate was modest through out and stood at 1.13% in October 2010.

(c) and (d) The details of the steps taken by Government to contain price-rise of essential commodities are given in Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Monthly inflation rate (%) for the year 2010

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
All Commodities	8.56	9.89	9.90	9.59	10.16	10.55	9.97	8.51	8.62	8.58
I. Primary Articles	14.52	15.54	14.10	13.88	16.60	16.28	14.94	15.76	17.45	16.68
Food articles	17.43	17.79	16.65	16.87	16.49	14.60	10.29	14.64	15.71	14.13
Cereals	13.71	11.69	10.74	9.09	6.03	5.41	6.17	8.87	6.24	4.59
Pulses	45.64	35.58	31.40	30.42	32.40	32.56	21.98	9.24	5.07	2.32
Fruits	5.86	11.13	12.02	13.69	15.74	10.91	9.52	11.15	12.03	15.84
Vegetables	11.79	16.07	1.56	-1.90	-0.48	-0.03	14.50	-6.61	6.03	3.68
II. Fuel & Power	6.90	10.19	12.71	12.55	13.05	14.32	14.29	12.55	11.06	11.02
III. Manufactured products	6.55	7.42	7.13	6.70	6.41	6.66	6.15	4.78	4.59	4.75
Cement	-6.28	-5.23	-3.24	0.09	-0.75	-5.79	-8.36	2.01	1.74	1.13

Source: DIPP

NB: WPI Inflation rate from January 2010 to July 2010 is based on 1993-94 base year and August 2010 to October 2010 is based on 2004-05 base year.

Statement-II

*Steps taken by the Government to contain price rise in essential
Commodities are briefly stated below:*

(A) Short term Measures:

I. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero - for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude); butter and ghee and to 7.5% for refined & hydrogenated oils & vegetable oils;
- (ii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L.
- (iii) Allowed import of white/refined sugar. The facility has been extended upto 31.12.2010 without any quantitative cap.

II. Administrative Measures

- (i) Removed levy obligation in respect of imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.
- (ii) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except coconut oil and forest based oil) and pulses (except Kabuli chana).
- (iii) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (at \$375 per tonne for November 2010) and basmati rice (\$900 PMT);
- (iv) Maintaining the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002.
- (v) Suspension of Futures trading in Rice, Urad and Tur by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 continues during 2010-11. Futures trading in sugar were suspended w.e.f. 27.5.2009 up to 30.9.2010.
- (vi) Permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfil export obligation on ton to ton basis.
- (vii) Proportion of sugar production requisitioned as levy sugar was increased from 10 to 20% for 2009-10 sugar season. However, for 2010-11 sugar season, the levy obligation has been reduced to 10⁰%.

- (viii) For the month of September, 2010, 16.72 lac tonne of non-levy sugar have been made available. Besides, levy sugar quota of 2.28 lac tonne also been released.
- (ix) An additional allocation of wheat/rice @ 10 kg/family/month of January and February 2010 was made to the accepted number of AAY, BPL and APL ration cards. This is in addition to existing allocation while wheat was allocated at MSP price of Rs. 10800 per tonnes; rice was allotted at MSP derived price of Rs. 15373.10 per tonne for Grade A.
- (x) Specific adhoc additional allocation of 30.66 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been made for all cardholders on 19.5.2010 with validity for lifting upto 20.11.2010 @ Rs.8.45 per kg for wheat and Rs. 11.85 per kg for rice.
- (xi) An additional allocation of 4.57 lakh tonnes of foodgrains per month for APL families at the prevailing APL CIP made on 2.8.2010. This is applicable initially for a period of six months to those States where APL allocations were below 15 kg per family per month.
- (xii) 25 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have also been allocated in September 2010 to all States/UTs for distribution to BPL families at BPL issue price during six months period from September 2010.
- (xiii) Extended stock limit orders in the case of pulses, paddy and rice for a period upto 30th September, 2011, edible oil and edible oilseeds upto 31st March, 2011, sugar up to 31st December 2010.
- (xiv) Under OMSS interventions Allocation to State Governments under OMSS (Domestic) for release of 20.00 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of Rice was made to check inflationary trends in food economy from October 2009 to March 2010.
- (b) In addition to above, a quantity of 10 lakh MTs wheat was also allocated for sale to bulk consumers through open tenders by FCI from October,09 -March, 10. Another 10.81 lakh tonnes of wheat from the expected savings from retail allocations was allocated for bulk consumers through tender sale.
- (c) On 18.1.2010, NAFED was allotted 37400 tonnes of wheat and 17000 tonnes of rice from the un-lifted quantity of OMSS allocations to State Governments. Similarly, NCCF was allocated 32684.21 tonnes wheat and 11000 tonnes rice for sale to retail consumers.

- (d) On 16.2.2010, another allocation of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat was made for tender sale to small processors by FCI. High Level Committee of FCI has formulated guidelines for tender sale to small processors. The reserve price fixed for tender sale of wheat to bulk consumers undertaken by FCI.
- (xv) The Government is also contemplating bringing legislation on Food Security.
- (xvi) Experimented with popularization of Yellow Peas through sale in the Retail Outlets of NAFED, Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF and Mother Dairy in Delhi.

(B) Medium Term Measures:

In the medium term, Government has taken initiatives such as the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to improve production and productivity in agriculture. New initiative of "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India" in 6 eastern states is also focused towards enhancing agriculture production. Similarly, new initiative of "organizing 60,000 pulses and Oilseed village" is being implemented in major pulses growing States to supplement the efforts of other schemes in enhancing the pulses production. Maize production is promoted through Integrated Scheme on Oilseed, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM).

Wastage of foodgrains in Assam

1117. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that thousand of tonnes of foodgrains stock were reported to have rotted due to alleged poor storage, failure to lift stocks in the FCI godown in Assam recently;
- (b) if so, the details of quantity and value of foodgrains damaged or rotted in Assam;
- (c) whether Government has instituted any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has taken any action in connection with queries and suggestions made by the Apex Court on such matter and whether these foodgrains were given to the poor families instead of getting wasted; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?