

From yet another angle, the prices of the most actively traded essential agricultural commodities, viz. chana, wheat, maize, potato etc. has been steady or with moderate inflation as against high inflation in non-traded commodities, viz. urad, tur, vegetables and fruits.

In view of the above facts, it would not be correct to say that the growth in the trade volume in agricultural commodities during 2009-10 was due to excessive speculation or by causing inflation or indulging in profiteering.

Futures markets are driven by market fundamentals shaping demand and supply over a longer time horizon. The same demand and supply factors affect both spot markets and futures market with the only difference that the time horizon for these factors is nil or negligible for spot trade whereas futures trade has a longer term horizon of 3 to 6 months. Futures markets are only a platform for price discovery and hedging. It only ensures that the discovered price is objective and fair and is based on the expectations about the fundamentals of demand and supply over time horizon upto the maturity of the contract. The trading platform of the Commodity Exchanges in India are well regulated. The regulator uses various tools, such as special margins, price limits etc. which reduce the leverage and over speculation by speculative participants. Besides, almost all agricultural commodities are on compulsory delivery mode and this threat of delivery keeps speculators in check. Hence, in the India commodity market regulatory environment, it is not possible for any individual or group of individuals to drive the prices in a single direction against the market fundamentals.

#### **Student-teacher ratio**

†1147. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a common perception that for better school education, there should be a ratio of one trained teacher to 30 students;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the names of the States in the country having student-teacher ratio in keeping with the said perception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Education (RTE) Act, 2009 prescribes that Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) in schools should be maintained as per the following specified levels:

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| (i) For first class to fifth class   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two teachers up to 60 admitted children;</li> <li>• Three teachers for 61 to 90 children;</li> <li>• Four teachers for 91 to 120 children;</li> <li>• Five teachers for 121 to 200 children;</li> <li>• Five plus teachers and one Head teacher if the number of admitted children is above 150; and the Pupil-teacher ratio (excluding Head-teacher) shall not exceed forty if the number of admitted children is above 200.</li> </ul> |
| (ii) For sixth class to eighth class | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one teacher per class so that there shall be at least one teacher each for (i) Science and Mathematics; (ii) Social Studies; and (iii) Languages.</li> <li>• At least one teacher for every 35 children;</li> <li>• Where admission of children is above 100, there shall be (i) a full time head-teacher and (ii) part time instructors for Art Education, Health &amp; Physical Education and Work Education.</li> </ul>      |

As per District Information System for Education (DISE), 2009-10, all States/Union Territories except Bihar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have a PTR less than or equal to 30:1.

#### **Children out of schooling system despite RTE Act**

†1148. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.