

Ratification of UN convention against corruption, 2003

1617. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has not yet ratified UN Convention against Corruption, 2003, despite signing it in 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government proposes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It was considered appropriate to first complete the due diligence process for complying with the mandatory provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption before its ratification. The Government has, now, decided to ratify the Convention as expressed in the recent Presidential address to the Parliament.

Increasing number of poor people due to foodgrains price

†1618. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the President of World Bank, Mr. Robert Zolik, is of the opinion that the number of poor people increase with the increase in prices of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, whether there is apprehension of increase in number of poor people in India due to increase in prices of foodgrains;
- (c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (d) the average increase in prices of foodgrains during 2008-09 to 2010-11 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) In the February, 2011 edition of the World Bank's "Food Price Watch", it has been indicated that due to sharp rise in the prices of foodgrains since June 2010, about 44 million people in the low and middle income countries might have fallen below the poverty line.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission is the nodal agency of the Government for estimation of the number and proportion of people below the poverty line. These poverty estimates are based on a large sample survey of household consumption expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) after an interval of five years approximately. The latest methodology for estimation of poverty has been made on the basis of the recommendation of the Expert Group headed by Prof. Suresh Tendulkar. As per the Tendulkar Committee's recommendations, the all-India poverty headcount ratio for 2004-05 is estimated at 37.2%, lower than the 45.3% calculated using the same methodology for the year 1993-94. The latest poverty estimates available are for the year 2004-05 and it cannot be said with certainty whether the number of poor people may have gone up subsequently in the country due to increase in the prices of foodgrains.

(d) The increase in prices of food grains based on average wholesale price indices during 2008-09 to 2010-11 (up to January, 2011) is given in the table below.

*Increase in Prices of Foodgrains based on WPI during
2008-09 to 2010-11 (up to January, 2011)*

	Average Wholesale Price Index			Year on Year Change (%)			
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (upto Jan'11)	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (upto Jan'11)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Foodgrains (cereals and pulses)	130.9	145.3	166.4	173.6	11.0	14.5	4.3
Cereals	127.9	143.1	161.2	168.3	11.9	12.6	4.4
Rice	122.5	140.6	157.9	166.2	14.8	12.3	5.3
Wheat	134.3	147.6	166.5	170.3	9.9	12.8	2.3
Jowar	148.0	151.2	168.6	183.7	2.2	11.5	9.0
Bajra	128.0	139.2	168.1	175.1	8.7	20.8	4.2
Maize	130.2	139.1	153.3	165.0	6.8	10.2	7.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Barley	136.6	152.9	150.6	161.7	11.9	-1.5	7.4
Ragi	123.4	134.9	174.7	173.3	9.4	29.5	-0.8
Pulses	144.9	155.8	190.8	198.1	7.5	22.4	3.8
Gram	149.0	153.8	152.2	148.3	3.2	-1.1	-2.5
Arhar	126.1	144.3	214.7	205.6	14.4	48.8	-4.2
Moong	141.2	150.4	233.8	288.6	6.5	55.4	23.5
Masur	145.7	196.2	228.2	198.0	34.6	16.3	-13.2
Urad	159.8	159.8	228.4	276.1	0.0	43.0	20.9

Source: Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Annual growth rate in Bihar

†1619. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate in Bihar during 2010-11 is estimated to be 10.49 percent;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and whether it is also a fact that the annual growth rate of this State is much more in comparison to the annual growth rate of the country; and

(c) if so, the difference between both the annual growth rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The growth rate of Bihar for 2010-11 has not been estimated so far. However, the estimated annual GSDP growth of Bihar at constant (2004-05) prices was 8.56% in 2009-10 against the all India GSDP growth of 7.96%. The difference between both the growth rates is 0.6%.

Bihar out of Bimaru States

†1620. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.