

Impact of shortage of essential commodities on economy

†2196. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the acute shortage of essential commodities in the country has resulted in price rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to check price rise in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) As per the 4th Advance Estimates of crop production for 2010-11, the foodgrains production in 2010-11 has been an all-time record of 241.56 million tonnes. The actual stocks of rice and wheat as on 1.7.2011 include carryover stocks from the previous year as well as the procurements made during the current year is 640.06 lakh tonnes as against buffer norm of 319 lakh tonnes. The estimated target for procurement of wheat and rice from 2010-11 crop was 262.75 lakh tonnes and 327.52 lakh tonnes respectively. The favourable impact of a near normal monsoon on food inflation, however, could be offset by hike in minimum support prices. The government has already taken several fiscal and administrative measures to contain inflation. On account of these measures the prices of cereals and pulses fell from a peak of 19.5 per cent in January 2010, to 2.64 per cent in July 2011. The year-on-year inflation in 31 essential commodities of WPI has also turned down to 8.34 per cent in July 2011 from a peak of 24.17 per cent in January 2010. Overall WPI headline inflation is expected to fall to year end inflation of 6 to 7 per cent.

(c) Measures taken to contain prices of essential commodities include; import prices reduced to zero on rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and onion, ban on export of non-basmati rice, edible oils (except coconut oil and forest based oil) and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses upto a maximum of 10000 tonnes per year), futures trading suspended in rice, urad and tur by the Forward Market Commission, stock limit orders extended in the case of pulses, paddy and rice up to 30 September 2011, duty under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) reduced from 15% to 5% for import upto an aggregate of 10000 metric tonnes in a financial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

year, import of 30000 tonnes of Milk Powder and 15000 tonnes of Milk Fat at zero duty allowed to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) during 2010-11 under TRQ, reduction in custom duty on crude oil and import duty on petrol and diesel.

As part of the monetary policy review stance, the RBI has taken suitable steps with 11 consecutive increases in policy rates and related measures to moderate demand to levels consistent with the capacity of the economy to maintain its growth without provoking price rise. As per the most recent announcement of the RBI on 26 July 2011, the repo rate and reverse repo rate have been revised to 8.0 per cent and 7.0 per cent respectively.

Observation of Vajpayee Committee on NPS

2197. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT J HA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of beneficiaries under New Pension Scheme (NPS) as on date;
- (b) the number of Government employees and private investors under NPS, separately;
- (c) the details of return in percentage per year on NPS fund since its inception, year-wise;
- (d) whether the Vajpayee Committee on NPS has submitted its report;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of main observations of Vajpayee Committee on NPS;
- (f) whether Vajpayee Committee has declared NPS as a total failure;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the reasons for failure of NPS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) The number of beneficiaries under New Pension System (NPS) as on 11.08.2011 is 24,14,188.

(b) The details of subscribers under NPS who are Government employees and private sector employees are as under: