

Rising prices of food

657. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the food prices including the prices of vegetables are rising alarmingly, resulting in great difficulties for the common people, mainly the poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the prices of various food items including vegetables during the last six months;

(c) whether Government is actively considering to take measures to bring the prices of these items;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Retail Prices of most essential food items including vegetables, except potato have gone up over the period of last six months. Prices of all commodities have moderated over the last month.

(b) Details of retail prices of select essential commodities in four metro cities as on 21st November 2011, are given in Statement-I (See below).

(c) Although the prices of vegetables are largely influenced by the seasonality factors, Government has taken several steps to contain the rise in prices of essential food items.

(d) Details are given in Statement-II (See below).

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Retail Prices of Essential Commodities in four metro cities as on 21-11-2011

Centre	Current Date	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	% Variation		
		Back	Back	Back			
	21/11/2011	21/10/2011	21/09/2011	21/08/2011	over 1 Month	over 3 Months	over 6 Months
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rice							
Delhi	24.00	24.00	24.00	23.00	0.0	0.0	4.3
Mumbai	22.00	21.00	22.00	20.00	4.8	0.0	10.0
Kolkata	20.00	20.00	21.00	19.00	0.0	-4.8	5.3
Chennai	23.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	4.5	4.5	4.5
Wheat							
Delhi	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mumbai	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kolkata	NR	NR	NR	NR	-	-	-

Chennai	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Atta							
Delhi	17.00	16.50	16.00	16.00	3.0	6.3	6.3
Mumbai	22.00	22.00	24.00	24.00	0.0	-8.3	-8.3
Kolkata	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chennai	24.00	24.00	23.00	22.00	0.0	4.3	9.1
Gram Dal							
Delhi	56.00	55.00	44.00	37.00	1.8	27.3	51.4
Mumbai	55.00	56.00	43.00	39.00	-1.8	27.9	41.0
Kolkata	48.00	46.00	38.00	38.00	4.3	26.3	26.3
Chennai	53.00	52.00	44.00	35.00	1.9	20.5	51.4
Tur/Arhar Dal							
Delhi	74.00	73.50	71.00	70.50	0.7	4.2	5.0
Mumbai	71.00	70.00	69.00	64.00	1.4	2.9	10.9
Kolkata	64.00	64.00	54.00	58.00	0.0	18.5	10.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chennai	65.00	65.00	62.00	65.00	0.0	4.8	0.0
Urad Dal							
Delhi	75.00	75.00	76.00	72.00	0.0	-1.3	4.2
Mumbai	80.00	76.00	77.00	77.00	5.3	3.9	3.9
Kolkata	65.00	65.00	58.00	60.00	0.0	12.1	8.3
Chennai	68.00	70.00	68.00	68.00	-2.9	0.0	0.0
Moong Dal							
Delhi	74.00	73.00	75.00	73.00	1.4	-1.3	1.4
Mumbai	80.00	77.00	79.00	79.00	3.9	1.3	1.3
Kolkata	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chennai	69.00	68.00	65.00	70.00	1.5	6.2	-1.4
Masoor Dal							
Delhi	55.00	55.00	54.00	54.00	0.0	1.9	1.9
Mumbai	57.00	56.00	57.00	56.00	1.8	0.0	1.8

Kolkata	44.00	44.00	42.00	45.00	0.0	4.8	-2.2
Chennai	46.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	2.2	2.2	2.2
Sugar							
Delhi	35.00	33.50	32.50	32.00	4.5	7.7	9.4
Mumbai	34.00	33.00	32.00	32.00	3.0	6.3	6.3
Kolkata	32.50	32.00	32.00	32.00	1.6	1.6	1.6
Chennai	31.00	31.00	30.00	29.00	0.0	3.3	6.9
Milk							
Delhi	29.00	29.00	27.00	27.00	0.0	7.4	7.4
Mumbai	36.00	36.00	34.00	28.00	0.0	5.9	28.6
Kolkata	22.00	22.00	22.00	21.00	0.0	0.0	4.8
Chennai	27.00	20.50	20.50	20.50	31.7	31.7	31.7
Groundnut Oil							
Delhi	135.00	121.00	128.00	126.00	11.6	5.5	7.1
Mumbai	109.89	119.00	116.00	91.00	-7.7	-5.3	20.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Kolkata	120.00	120.00	105.00	100.00	0.0	14.3	20.0
Chennai	112.09	100.00	100.00	90.00	12.1	12.1	24.5
Mustard oil							
Delhi	83.00	84.00	78.00	77.00	-1.2	6.4	7.8
Mumbai	89.01	88.00	85.00	84.00	1.1	4.7	6.0
Kolkata	80.00	78.00	75.00	72.00	2.6	6.7	11.1
Chennai	95.60	87.00	85.00	77.00	9.9	12.5	24.2
Vanaspati							
Delhi	79.00	72.00	78.00	76.00	9.7	1.3	3.9
Mumbai	83.52	86.00	77.00	77.00	-2.9	8.5	8.5
Kolkata	60.00	58.00	66.00	64.00	3.4	-9.1	-6.3
Chennai	76.92	72.00	78.00	74.00	6.8	-1.4	3.9
Soya Oil							
Delhi	88.00	80.00	83.00	81.00	10.0	6.0	8.6

Mumbai	78.02	79.00	77.00	NR	-1.2	1.3	-
Kolkata	74.00	75.00	69.00	70.00	-1.3	7.2	5.7
Chennai	NR	NR	NR	NR	-	-	-
Sunflower Oil							
Delhi	108.00	98.00	93.00	93.00	10.2	16.1	16.1
Mumbai	83.52	83.00	86.00	NR	0.6	-2.9	-
Kolkata	95.00	90.00	85.00	80.00	5.6	11.8	18.8
Chennai	85.71	80.00	80.00	76.00	7.1	7.1	12.8
Palm oil							
Delhi	NR	NR	NR	NR	-	-	-
Mumbai	64.84	65.00	67.00	NR	-0.2	-3.2	-
Kolkata	63.00	62.00	64.00	64.00	1.6	-1.6	-1.6
Chennai	63.74	56.00	60.00	60.00	13.8	6.2	6.2
Potato							
Delhi	14.00	17.00	16.00	10.00	-17.6	-12.5	40.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mumbai	14.00	14.00	15.00	16.00	0.0	-6.7	-12.5
Kolkata	7.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	-12.5	-12.5	-12.5
Chennai	12.00	13.00	14.00	13.00	-7.7	-14.3	-7.7
Onion							
Delhi	20.00	22.00	19.00	10.00	-9.1	5.3	100.0
Mumbai	18.00	21.00	18.00	15.00	-14.3	0.0	20.0
Kolkata	16.00	18.00	14.00	10.00	-11.1	14.3	60.0
Chennai	12.00	13.00	19.00	9.00	-7.7	-36.8	33.3
Tomato							
Delhi	20.00	35.00	19.00	12.00	-42.9	5.3	66.7
Mumbai	22.00	22.00	14.00	17.00	0.0	57.1	29.4
Kolkata	32.00	32.00	24.00	20.00	0.0	33.3	60.0
Chennai	16.00	23.00	7.25	8.00	-30.4	120.7	100.0

Source: State civil supplies Department.

NR=Not Reported

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government to contain price rise in essential Commodities

1. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero - for rice, wheat, sugar, onion, pulses, edible oils (crude) and to 7.5% for refined & hydrogenated oils & vegetable oils.
- (ii) NDDDB has been allowed to import 50000 tonnes of skimmed Milk Powder and Whole milk powder and 15000 MT of Butter, Butter Oil and Anhydrous Milk Fat at zero duty under Tariff Rate Quota.

2. Administrative Measures

- (i) Removed levy obligation in respect of all imported raw and white/refined sugar.
- (ii) Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil and forest based oil) and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum).
- (iii) Permitted export of edible oils permitted in branded consumer packs of up to 5 kgs subject to a limit of 10,000 tonnes.
- (iv) Prohibited export of milk powders (including skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, dairy whitener and infant milk food), Casein and Casein products.
- (v) Effected no change in Tariff Rate Values of edible oils;
- (vi) Extended stock limit orders in the case of pulses, edible oil, edible oilseeds, paddy, rice and sugar.
- (vii) Maintained 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.
- (viii) Suspension of Futures trading in urad and Tur by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 continues during 2010-11.
- (ix) Proportion of sugar production requisitioned as levy sugar was decreased from 20 to 10% for 2010-11 sugar season.
- (x) Government allocated 25 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice under OMSS (D) 2011 for the period of January, 2011 to September 2011.

- (xi) 25 lakh tonnes of food grains have been allocated on 6.1.2011 to all States/UTs for BPL families at BPL issue prices for distribution upto 30.9.2011.
- (xii) An additional adhoc allocation of 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains made on 16th May, 2011 to all State/UTs for BPL families at BPL issue price for distribution during the current year up to March, 2012.
- (xiii) An additional adhoc allocation of 25 lakh tonnes of foodgrains made on 6.1.2011 to all States/UTs for APL families @ Rs. 8.45 per kg for wheat and Rs. 11.85 per kg for rice for distribution upto 30.9.2011.
- (xiv) In addition, adhoc allocation of 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains made on 30th June, 2011 to APL families raising thereby monthly APL allocation upto 15 kg per family per month in 20 States and 35 kg per family per month in 4 North Eastern States, Sikkim and 2 hilly states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand where it was less than that quantity for a period of ten months from June 2011 to March 2012.
- (xv) In pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 14th May, 2011 to reserve 50.00 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for distribution to the 150 poorest districts or the extremely poor and vulnerable sections of the society and the suggestion of the Central Vigilance Committee on PDS headed by Justice(Retd) D.P.Wadhwa, an additional allocation of about 3.87 lakh tonnes of foodgrains at AAY/BPL prices has been made in July/August 2011 initially for 3 months to thirteen States covering 74 districts.
- (xvi) Extended the scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs 10/- kg for distribution to BPL families @ 1 kg per month.
- (xvii) Extended the Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs.15/- kg for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 litre per ration card per month.

Ban on futures trading

658. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government proposes to ban the futures trading on almost all farm products and to create a strategic reserve of wheat and rice to control spiralling commodity prices;