

	All commodities	Primary food articles	Food grains	Fruits & vegetables	Protein food
Percentage weight in WPI	100.00	14.34	4.09	3.84	6.37
WPI Inflation % (Year-on-Year)					
Feb-12	6.95	6.07	2.92	0.30	14.50
Mar-12	6.89	9.94	5.52	9.16	15.65
Percentage contribution to overall WPI inflation					
Feb-12	100.00	15.31	2.06	0.19	16.70
Mar-12	100.00	24.78	3.85	5.67	17.84

(c) and (d) Apart from the seasonal factors, increase in inflation of primary food articles has been due to persistence of price pressures for protein rich products covering 'egg, fish and meat', milk and pulses.

The Government monitors the price situation regularly as price stability remains high on its agenda. Fiscal and administrative measures have been taken to contain price rise of essential commodities. As a result of these measures adopted by the Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI), inflation has started moderating. Since the high inflation in the protein rich items was one of the important factors for keeping the inflation at elevated levels, Government has proposed some special measures in Union Budget 2012-13 to increase the domestic availability of protein supplements and to remove the structural imbalances in demand and supply of these products.

Interest subvention scheme for farmers

3457. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

SHRI K. E. ISMAIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that at present interest subvention is only for short term loans and the benefit is not extended to farmers availing loans from scheduled banks and private sector banks;

(b) if so, whether in view of the Kerala having wide network coverage of certain scheduled banks, Government would consider the demand to provide the benefit of interest subvention to eligible farmers taking loans from private and scheduled banks and also to extend the benefits for medium and long term loans as well; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) The Interest Subvention Scheme is being implemented

by the Government of India since 2006-07 to make short-term crop loans upto Rs. 3 lakh for a period of one year available to farmers at the interest rate of 7 per cent per annum. The Government of India has since 2009-10 been providing additional interest subvention to prompt payee farmers. The additional subvention was 1% in 2009-10, 2% in 2010-11 and 3% in 2011-12.

Interest subvention Scheme of Government of India is presently applicable to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide the benefits of Interest Subvention for loans from the private banks and also to extend the benefits for medium and long term loans.

Loss to LIC on investment in PSUs

3458. SHRI D. RAJA :

SHRI K. E. ISMAIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all of LIC investments in the Government's disinvestment programme of public sector undertakings since the year 2009 have resulted in huge notional losses for policy holders in the underlying schemes;

(b) if so, the details of the investment made by LIC since 2009, PSU-wise, and the current worth of these investments; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that as on 31.03.2012, total outstanding investment in Public Sectors Undertakings, under which disinvestment was carried out by Government since 2009 to March, 2012 is in profit. The book value of the total outstanding investment as on 31.03.2012 was Rs. 59,116.36 crore and its market value was Rs. 59,851.16 crore.

Refusal of fresh credit to the beneficiaries of Debt Waiver Scheme

†3459. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that those farmers whose loans were waived off by the Union Government throughout the country in the year 2008-09 are again being denied loans for agriculture activities by banks;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.