

**Prices of essential items**

†1436. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL:

SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA:

DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

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

(a) whether the food inflation has remained stubbornly high and the prices of foodgrains, edible oils, vegetables, sugar etc. are increasing drastically during the last five years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to control the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS) : (a) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) during the period 2008 to 2012 shows that the annual rate of inflation for Primary Food Articles was 7.26% for the year 2008, rose to 12.73% for the year 2009 and 17.70% for the year 2010. It declined to 9.09% for the year 2011 and was at 8.50% for the year 2012. The details are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

Rise in the prices of essential food items are due to several factors such as shortfall in domestic supply relative to demand, hardening of international prices, rising fuel cost, changes in consumption pattern, adverse weather conditions, insufficient logistics and storage facilities etc.

(b) The Steps in operation by the Government to contain price rise in essential commodities is given in Statement-II

**Statement-I***Rate of Inflation based on WPI*

Commodity Name	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	2	3	4	5	6
All Commodities	8.68	2.35	9.56	9.47	7.53
Food Articles	7.26	12.73	17.70	9.09	8.50

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Cereals	10.99	12.53	7.72	3.87	9.56
Rice	14.24	13.74	7.56	3.24	8.91
Wheat	8.75	10.58	7.78	-1.58	9.47
Pulses	2.38	18.14	12.33	-1.81	18.86
Vegetables	0.76	14.92	8.28	7.65	11.12
Sugar	6.47	47.67	14.70	0.57	9.88
Edible oils	10.23	-7.25	2.35	13.35	9.92

Source : DIPP.

#### *Statement-II*

*The Steps in operation by the Government to contain price rise in essential commodities inter-alia include the following:*

- Reduced import duties to zero – for wheat, onion and pulses and to 7.5% for refined & hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils.
- Import duty on sugar has been kept at 10%.
- Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil, forest based oil and edible oils in blended consumer packs upto 5 kg with a Minimum Export Price of USD 1500 per MT) and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses and lentils up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum).
- Imposed stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, and edible oilseeds for a period upto 30.9.2013 and in respect of paddy and rice upto 30.11.2013.
- 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.
- Suspended Futures trading in rice, urad and tur.
- To ensure adequate availability of sugar for the households covered under TPDS, the levy obligation on sugar factories was restored to 10%.
- Government allocated rice and wheat under OMSS Scheme.

- The scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through PDS with a subsidy element of Rs. 20/- per Kg is presently under operation. The scheme for subsidized imported edible oils has been extended upto 30.9.2013 with subsidy of Rs. 15/- per Kg.

#### Storage capacity of foodgrains

1437. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- the storage capacity of foodgrains in the country;
- the available stock of various foodgrains;
- whether any foodgrains have been exported; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The storage capacity, Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) available with the FCI is 376.19 lakh MTs as on 31.01.2013. The storage capacities, both covered and CAP, available with State agencies for storage of Central Stock of foodgrains is about 341.35 lakh MTs. As a result, a total of about 718.00 lakh MTs of storage capacity was available for storage of Central stock of foodgrains which stood at 661.93 lakh MTs as on 31.1.2013. The details of the foodgrains stocks is as under:

(Figures in lakh MT)

Wheat	Rice (including un-milled paddy in terms of rice)	Total
308.09	353.84	661.93

(c) and (d) The quantity of Wheat and Rice exported in the last three years and upto 08-02-2013 is as under:

Year	Non-Basmati Rice (Quantity in tonnes)	Wheat (Quantity in tonnes)
2009-10	1,39,544	30
2010-11	1,00,683	396
2011-12	40,99,000	7,41,188
2012-13 (1-4-2012 to 8-2-2013)	55,06,601.84	41,55,045.63