

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken, if any, by Union Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that initially many private sector sugar mills gave notices mentioning that they could not afford to pay even last year's State Advised Price (SAP) to sugarcane growers for the on-going crushing season. The State Government granted some reliefs and concessions to the sugar mills, after that all the sugar mills agreed to pay SAP to cane growers in current sugar season 2013-14. As on 12.12.2013, out of 120 sugar mills, 106 mills have started crushing.

(c) The Government has constituted an Informal Group of Union Ministers under the Chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture to look into the problems being faced by the Sugar industry.

Price-rise of vegetables and essential commodities

1018. DR. BHARAT KUMAR RAUT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential commodities/vegetables have gone up all time high during the last three months in metro cities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has no control over hoarders and middlemen to curb the hoarding to make available the vegetables, like onions, tomatoes, potatoes and other food items on lesser price; and

(c) the immediate measures Government is going to take to stop the unprecedented price rise of vegetables and essential commodities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) During the last three months (September to November, 2013), there has been rise in retail prices of essential commodities including vegetables in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The increase has been considerable in the case of onion and tomato.

Increase in prices of essential commodities including vegetables could be due to several factors such as demand -supply mismatch, increase in cost of inputs, cost of transportation and problems in storage and weather conditions.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing “the Essential Commodities Act 1955” and “the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980” with the objective of preventing hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been repeatedly requested to strictly enforce both the Acts and also monitor enforcement of these Acts.

Government monitors the Wholesale/Retail prices of select essential commodities which include vegetables like potato, onion and tomato through data obtained from 57 Reporting Centres across the country on a continuous basis. The prevailing price situation as well as other factors which have impact on prices both in domestic and international markets are analysed, and based on this decisions are taken to contain price rise.

Measures taken to contain the price rise of essential commodities including vegetables are given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 1009 Part (c) and (d)]

Fund released under emergency feeding scheme

1019. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of fund released under Emergency Feeding Scheme during the last three years, State-wise including the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether this scheme is applicable across the country, if not the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of fund spent/unspent State- wise during the last three years;
- (d) the details of results achieved during the last three years; and
- (e) whether Government is satisfied with the result achieved so far?