

and sale registers maintained may be sent to the Gram Panchayats; Gram Panchayats should be encouraged to form a FPS Committee to keep a watch on the functioning of the FPS, etc.

Statement

*Number of FPSs under TPDS run by Village Panchayats and Urban
Local Bodies in the States/UTs*

(As upto 31.03.2014)

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Village Panchayats | Urban Local Bodies |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Chhattisgarh | 4173 | 24 |
| 2. | Gujarat | 5 | 20 |
| 3. | Himachal Pradesh | 37 | 0 |
| 4. | Maharashtra | 219 | 220 |
| 5. | Nagaland | 1165 | 260 |
| 6. | Odisha | 4287 | 9 |
| 7. | Chandigarh | 7 | 0 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 1 | 0 |

Rise in prices of vegetables

3292. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of vegetables, particularly onion and potato, have recorded around 40 per cent increase since May, 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof; vegetable-wise;

(c) the reasons for steep rise in prices of vegetables, particularly onion and potato; and

(d) the details of steps Government has taken to check rise in prices of vegetables to ease the lives of common people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):
(a) and (b) As per the latest Wholesale Price Index (WPI) released for June, 2014, the

index for vegetables increased by 16.02 per cent over May, 2014. The details are given in Statement.

(c) The recent rise in prices of essential food items like vegetables are mainly due to factors such as anticipation of deficient rains with possible shortfall in production, transportation cost, supply constraints like storage facilities for fruits and vegetables and artificial shortages created through hoarding and black marketing.

(d) The recent initiatives taken by the Government to improve the availability and contain prices of vegetables are as follows:

- Minimum Export Price (MEP) fixed for potatoes at USD 450 per M.T. w.e.f. 26.06.2014 and of onions at USD 500 per M.T. w.e.f. 2.07.2014 respectively.
- States have been advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from the APMC Act.
- Advisory to State Governments issued to take action against hoarding and black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- Imposed stock limits in respect of onion and potato for a period of one year with effect from 3rd July, 2014 under the Essential Commodities Act.

Statement

| Wholesale Price Index (WPI) | (2004-05=100) | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| Commodity Name | June, 2014* | May, 2014 | % Variation |
| Vegetables | 271.6 | 234.1 | 16.02 |
| Potato | 304.0 | 270.9 | 12.22 |
| Onion | 302.8 | 260.9 | 16.06 |
| Okra (Lady finger) | 152.4 | 140.9 | 8.16 |
| Brinjal | 212.7 | 171.5 | 24.02 |
| Cabbage | 313.1 | 216.1 | 44.89 |
| Sweet Potato | 343.3 | 401.8 | -14.56 |

Source: Dept. of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

*Latest available.