

Food inflation

1470. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:

SHRI JUGUL KISHORE:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any step to control the food inflation which is rising during the last three months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the cause of rise of food inflation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Food inflation is officially estimated on the basis of trends in Wholesale Price Index (WPI), for Food Articles as well as Food Products groups. Over the last 3 months (August- October 2014) food inflation has actually declined as shown below:

Commodity	Aug. 2014	Sept. 2014	Oct. 2014	% Variation (Oct. - Aug.)
1. All Commodities	185.9	185.0	183.9	-1.1
A. Food Articles	265.3	261.8	258.5	-2.6
(i) Cereals	237.0	236.6	235.8	-0.5
(ii) Pulses	239.0	240.9	238.2	-0.3
(iii) Vegetables	373.4	328.6	295.5	-20.9
B. Food Products	175.5	175.1	174.2	-0.7
(i) Sugar	195.2	193.7	192.3	-1.5
(ii) Edible Oils	145.8	144.5	144.1	-1.2

Source: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

(c) The prices of essential items have remained within control. The measures taken by the Government for this include facilitating import of various items of mass consumption at zero or concessional import duties together with restriction on export, prescribing stock holding limits under Essential Commodities Act, allocation of foodgrains at affordable prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).