

in rural areas. Under the scheme, subsidy @ 25% of capital cost for general category and 33.33% for special category promoters are provided. Being a recent scheme no bottlenecks have been reported.

Food inflation

706. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific measures taken to control food inflation during the last five months;
- (b) the impact of these measures in containing food inflation; and
- (c) the details of comparative levels of food inflation in the last five months and the preceding five months from January to May, 2014 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):
(a) and (b) The specific steps taken by the Government to control the prices of essential commodities are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

The above steps have contributed significantly in keeping the prices of most of essential food items under control.

- (c) The details are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

Statement-I

Steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of essential food items:

- Minimum Export Price (MEP) fixed for potatoes at USD 450 per M.T. *w.e.f.* 26.06.2014 and of onions at USD 300 per M.T. *w.e.f.* 21.08.2014 respectively.
States have been advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from the APMC Act.
- Government has approved the release of additional five million tonnes of Rice to BPL and APL families in states pending implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- 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.
- 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 up to 30.9.2015 and in respect of paddy and rice up to 30.11.2014.
- Based on interaction with the State Governments/UTs on 4th July, 2014, a decision has been taken to amend the Essential Commodities Act to make hoarding and black marketing a non-bailable offence and increase the period of detention to one year from existing six months.
- The Government has approved for the current year *i.e.* 2014-15 Open Market Sale of ten million tonnes of wheat in the domestic market.

Statement-II

Food inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

Commodity/Item	Over the last five months (Jun-Oct)			Over the preceding five months (Jan-May)		
	June 2014	Oct. 2014	% Change	Jan. 2014	May 2014	% Change
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Food Articles	250.10	258.50	3.36	233.70	244.60	4.66
Cereals	231.90	235.80	1.68	229.90	230.40	0.22
Rice	241.10	247.00	2.45	230.00	237.80	3.39
Wheat	207.00	209.50	1.21	220.20	207.70	-5.68
Pulses	231.10	238.20	3.07	226.90	231.20	1.90
Gram	196.70	192.50	-2.14	208.00	200.60	-3.56
Arhar	217.00	231.40	6.64	214.40	214.50	0.05
Moong	331.60	348.80	5.19	305.40	334.00	9.36
Masur	248.80	268.60	7.96	223.10	241.10	8.07
Urad	269.70	288.40	6.93	243.30	263.80	8.43
Vegetables	272.90	295.50	8.28	216.80	236.60	9.13
Potato	312.40	421.40	34.89	198.60	282.60	42.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Onion	300.40	332.60	10.72	341.60	259.20	-24.12
Tomato	NA	332.10	NA	181.80	NA	NA
Milk	237.60	246.40	3.70	225.70	233.60	3.50
Sugar	190.00	192.30	1.21	184.50	189.80	2.87
Edible oils	145.10	144.10	-0.69	147.10	145.90	-0.82
Vanaspati	125.10	122.30	-2.24	123.40	126.10	2.19
Groundnut Oil	160.60	163.00	1.49	173.00	162.00	-6.36
Palm Oil	129.10	127.90	-0.93	128.40	130.10	1.32
Mustard and Rapeseed Oil	154.20	155.20	0.65	159.20	154.80	-2.76
Soyabean Oil	155.40	153.70	-1.09	158.60	155.80	-1.77
Copra Oil	135.00	136.50	1.11	124.20	128.30	3.30
Sunflower Oil	126.00	122.60	-2.70	128.20	126.60	-1.25

Source: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

Transportation of foodgrains through waterways

†707. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to transport grains through waterways also to reduce the supply cost of foodgrains for Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether transportation through waterways would mean riddance from entry tax, octroi duty and sale tax;

(d) whether Government is also contemplating to get assistance from private sector in transportation of ration through waterways; and

(e) if so, the States where supply of foodgrains would be possible through water ways?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.