

Region	No. of Private Depots
Uttar Pradesh	15
Uttaranchal	0
Andhra Pradesh (including Telagana)	20
Karnataka	4
Kerala	1
Tamil nadu	9
Chhattisgarh	1
Gujarat	3
Madhya Pradesh	0
Maharashtra (including Goa)	39
GRAND TOTAL	487

Rise in price of essential commodities

†711. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to excessive rise in prices of essential commodities, food items are available at very high rate, causing many problems to consumers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the prices and their effectiveness;

(c) the present retail and wholesale inflation rate;

(d) whether benefits of fall in inflation rate, due to reduction in prices of fuel, has not reached the common people;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether failure in keeping inflation under check is becoming evident ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) to (c) According to the latest Wholesale Price Index (WPI) [Base 2004-05 = 100] the rate of inflation during October, 2014 was at 1.77% as against 7.24% during the corresponding month of last year (October 2013). During the same period, change in index for Food Articles was at 2.70% and Food Products at 2.11% as against 18.34% and 2.34% respectively during the corresponding month of last year (October, 2013).

The steps taken by the Government to control the prices of essential commodities are given in Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The latest retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), [Base 2010 = 100] (Combined) for October 2014 stood at 5.52% and for Consumer Price Food Index (CPFI) was at 5.59%.

(d) to (f) Control of inflation remains a priority agenda of the Government. The basic objective behind any policy decision taken to contain prices especially of essential items is to ensure that the benefits of such decisions finally reach the common people.

Statement

Recent 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 30.09.2015 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.

Development of food processing industries

712. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how much of the need of food processing in the country is met by industrial units here at present;