

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;

(b) the demands that left unfulfilled at present along with the demand now met by import;

(c) whether there are prospects for export or the same is fully met already; and

(d) whether Government is taking steps to ensure that development of food processing industries are beneficial to peasants and farmers as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) to (c) Information on the value of output of food items is released annually in National Accounts Statistics (NAS). As per the latest NAS-2014, the value of output (at current prices) of food items for the year 2012-13 is ₹ 10,42,404 crore. During 2013-14, the value of import and export of food items was the order of ₹ 87,177 crore and ₹ 2,28,721 crore respectively. Both domestic output and imported of food items were used for meeting the requirement of domestic consumption, inputs for manufacturing and for exports/ re-exports etc.

(d) It has been the endeavour of the Government to promote food processing industry in the country to reduce wastage of agricultural produces and ensure higher returns to the farmers. With a view to promote the sector, the Government has been strengthening infrastructure by supporting creation of Cold chain, Mega Food Park and setting up/modernization of Abattoirs under the Central Sector Scheme of Infrastructure Development. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has also launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme - National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) - on 1st April 2012 for promoting the sector through State/UT Governments. The various schemes under the NMFP, *inter-alia*, include setting up/modernisation of food processing units, setting up Cold Chain units for non-horticultural products, Primary Processing Centres/Collection Centres in Rural Areas, setting up/modernisation of meat shops, Reefer Vehicles, Human Resource Development and Promotional Activities.

Investment in FPIs and Food Parks

713. SHRI MAJEED MEMON :

DR. PARBHAKAR KORE :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is focusing on investing more on setting up Food Processing Industries (FPIs) and some additional Food Parks to save wastage of fruits, vegetables and grains worth ₹ 44,000 crore annually;

(b) whether Government is going to bring out a country-wide food map comprising details of surplus and deficit areas that may help in setting up Food Processing Industries and cold chains to reduce food wastage, so as to combat the situation; and