

Selling of China-made mobile handsets

*25. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a mobile service provider is marketing and selling 4G technology China-made handsets which will support all bands of spectrum;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that these China-made handsets are of inferior quality and the company is not giving any guarantee/warranty on these handsets; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that all China-made mobile handsets are sold with one year proper guarantee/warranty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) It has been reported by Telecom Service providers who won Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum in 2300 MHz band and have launched Long Term Evolution (LTE), commonly known as 4G technology, that they are not marketing or selling 4G technology China-made handsets which will support all bands of spectrum.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Fall in prices of agricultural produces

*26. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the fall in prices of agricultural produces like wheat and oil on the Agricultural economy in the country;

(b) the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for grains and oilseeds in the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the impact of this fall in prices on the livelihood of farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of major agricultural commodities has shown some fluctuations from month to month. For the commodity groups of cereals and pulses, the index has increased between April 2014 to March 2015. In case of edible oil it decreased marginally over the same period while for oil seeds the WPI declined from 210.8 in April 2014 to 204.2 in March 2015. Within these groups, commodities such as wheat, maize, gram, arhar, rapeseed, mustard and mustard oil registered an

increase while rice, soyabean and soyabean oil have registered a decline in WPI over the same period. The movement of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base Year 2004-05) of major agricultural commodities like cereals, pulses, oil seeds and edible oil between April 2014 to March 2015 is given in given in the Statement-I (*See below*). Decline in the prices of any agricultural commodity may induce a partial shift in cropping pattern towards more profitable crops.

(b) The details of the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of major foodgrains and oilseed crops for the last three years are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) Government's seeks to ensure remunerative prices to growers for major agricultural commodities, such as wheat, paddy, maize, gram, soyabean, cotton etc. through Minimum Support Prices (MSP). Government offers to purchase at MSP, however, farmers are free to sell to Government agencies or in the open market as is advantageous to them. In addition, Government is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on the request of the State/ UT Government for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities, generally perishable in nature, and not covered under the price support scheme for MSP. Through these schemes Government seeks to protect farmers from price volatility.

Statement-I

Monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

(Base Year 2004-05=100)

Commodities	2014			2015	
	April	July	October	January	March
1	2	3	4	5	6
Cereals	230.5	235.6	235.4	233.8	230.9
Rice	234.1	244.7	247.0	239.2	233.6
Wheat	212.6	208.8	209.5	216.6	215.5
Maize	245.6	253.9	230.5	241.5	249.3
Pulses	228.9	234.1	238.2	255.4	257.8
Gram	201.3	190.8	192.5	203.9	209.2
Arhar	213.1	220.5	231.3	240.9	258.0
Oil Seeds	210.8	214.0	205.6	203.3	204.2
Groundnut Seed	199.8	204.7	217.3	207.1	222.4
Rape & Mustard Seed	186.4	189.9	193.9	202.2	202.7

1	2	3	4	5	6
Cotton Seed	169.8	182.7	181.1	155.7	157.4
Copra (Coconut)	173.5	187.1	193.0	180.0	179.4
Soyabean	243.7	241.9	181.0	203.2	197.4
Edible Oils	146.1	146.3	143.5	146.5	145.4
Groundnut Oil	162.3	161.9	163.3	179.7	180.1
Mustard & Rapeseed Oil	154.2	154.7	156.1	165.2	160.8
Soyabean Oil	157.8	156.4	151.5	153.9	151.1

Source: Office of the Economic Adviser, DIPP, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Statement-II

Minimum Support Price

As on 29.10.2014

(₹ per Quintal)

Commodity	Variety	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Kharif Crops				
Paddy	Common	1250	1310	1360
	Grade 'A'	1280	1345	1400
Jowar	Hybrid	1500	1500	1530
	Maldandi	1520	1520	1550
Bajra		1175	1250	1250
Maize		1175	1310	1310
Ragi		1500	1500	1550
Arhar (Tur)		3850	4300	4350
Moong		4400	4500	4600
Urad		4300	4300	4350
Groundnut In Shell		3700	4000	4000
Sunflower Seed		3700	3700	3750
Soyabean	Black	2200	2500	2500
	Yellow	2240	2560	2560
Sesamum		4200	4500	4600
Nigerseed		3500	3500	3600

Commodity	Variety	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Rabi Crops				
Wheat		1350	1400	1450
Barley		980	1100	1150
Gram		3000	3100	3175
Masur (Lentil)		2900	2950	3075
Rapeseed/Mustard		3000	3050	3100
Safflower		2800	3000	3050
Toria		2970	3020	3020

Sreedharan Committee report on railways

†*27. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Sreedharan Committee report almost ₹10,000 crore are being looted every year in railway procurement;

(b) the steps being taken by the Ministry to correct the railway management in view of findings of the Committee report that Railways are suffering from centralization, lack of transparency and accountability; and

(c) in view of the fact that the Committee did not find the working of the Railway Board satisfactory, the steps being taken to reform it?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU):

(a) No, Sir. The report does not mention so.

(b) and (c) Government is aware of the need for adequate delegation of power to senior functionaries for speedy decision making including that for projects within the overall framework of delegation in Government and system of checks and balances connected therewith to ensure financial propriety. Such delegation is a continuous process and powers at various levels are notified on the entire spectrum of subjects covering inter alia operation, maintenance and projects. Government has a strong system of checks and balances to detect stray cases of financial improprieties and take appropriate punitive and corrective action.

As part of this process, all powers to deal with tenders were delegated by the Ministry of Railways to the General Managers. The powers for sanction of detailed estimates hitherto being exercised by the Minister have also recently been delegated to the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.