

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:86
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
PRICE OF PULSES
NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the soaring prices of pulses in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are considering any scheme to boost production of all foodgrains especially pulses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the action being taken by the Government to bring down the prices of foodgrains especially the pulses in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): According to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with base 1993-94, the prices of pulses as a group registered a marginal decline of 0.8 per cent during the year ending July 5, 2003 as against a decline of 7.1 per cent during the corresponding previous year. However, the prices of Arhar (Tur) and Masur increased during this period. The following table gives the figures of price change in respect of individual pulses:

Annual (Point -to-Point) Price Change (%)

Pulses (Percentage variation in WPI)
Year ending 5th July, 2003 Corresponding previous year

1. Arhar (Tur)	10.0	7.2
2. Moong	- 1.7	4.1
3. Urad	- 11.6	- 17.9
4. Gram	- 0.8	- 14.9
5. Masur	6.4	3.7

(b) to (d): For increasing production and productivity of pulses a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented in 30 States covering 350 districts. Under the scheme, assistance is being provided on various components like production and distribution of certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits, integrated pest management and distribution of improved farm implements. In the case of foodgrains, including pulses, it may be stated that despite the sharp decline from 212.04 million tonnes in 2001-2002 to 182.57 million tonnes in 2002-2003 due to the impact of severe drought on production and productivity in several parts of the country, the price rise during the year ending July 5, 2003 was 3.1 per cent as against 5.1 per cent in respect of all commodities during the same period. The relatively lower rate of price rise in the case of foodgrains reflects the comfortable position of stocks well above the buffer norms.