

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:220

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006

INCREASE IN PRICE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Agarwal Shri Dharendra;Barman Shri Ranen;Murmu Shri Hemlal;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Pathak Shri Brajesh;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Singh Shri Sugrib;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been an unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities particularly wheat and wheat products in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the factors attributed thereto;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to ban export of wheat to stabilize the prices;
- (d) if not, the other steps taken by the Government to arrest the price rise;
- (e) whether the Government has recently released additional wheat in the open market;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (g) the details of monthly requirement of foodgrains for Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes in the country vis-a-vis the quantity being released, State-wise?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) & (b): The prices of essential commodities have generally remained steady during the recent past, except for wheat and wheat products such as atta. The increase in retail price of wheat at different centres has ranged from 50 paise per kg to Rs 4.00 per kg during the last one year ended on 16th February, 2006. In the case of atta, the increase has been in the range of Rs 1.00 per kg to Rs 3.00 per kg, barring higher increase at Aizawl, during the same period. The increase in the prices of wheat can be attributed to a variety of reasons such as relatively lower level of stocks of wheat in the Central Pool, seasonal factors etc.

(c) : No, Sir.

(d) : The following steps have been taken to check the increase in prices :

- (i) Increased allocation of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme;
- (ii) Freeze on the Central Issue Prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in order to encourage more off-take;
- (iii) Decision to import wheat for augmenting the availability in the Southern Zone;
- (iv) Ensuring adequate availability of wheat stocks for the TPDS and Welfare Schemes in all the States of the country,
- (v) Daily Monitoring of retail and wholesale prices of wheat.

(e) : Yes, Sir.

(f) : Government has released on 25.1.06 additional allocations of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme as under:

(in thousand tonnes)  
State Allocation

Delhi 20  
Tamil Nadu 20  
Karnataka 10  
Kerala

West Bengal 10  
Maharashtra 10

(g) : Information relating to the State-wise allocation and off-take of rice and wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System is given in the Annexure. As regards information on State-wise allocation and off-take of rice and wheat under Welfare Schemes, it is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.