

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4042

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

DIFFERENCE IN PRICES

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

- (a) the difference between the wholesale prices and retail prices of the essential commodities in the metro cities at present;
- (b) the mechanism in place to monitor the wholesale prices and retail prices of the essential commodities in the market;
- (c) whether any guidelines have been issued to the States about the huge gap in wholesale prices and retail prices of essential commodities prevailing in the market; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

- (a): The difference between the existing wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities as monitored by this Department is given at Annexure I.
- (b): The Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) in the Department of Consumer Affairs is entrusted with the task of monitoring of the prices of select essential commodities in the country based on the information received from the State Food and Civil Supplies Departments. Information on Retail Prices is received on daily basis from 27 centres of the country. Similarly, information on Wholesale Prices is received from 37 centres of the country on weekly basis.
- (c) & (d): There are no guidelines issued to the States about the huge gap in wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities. Any abnormal variation between the wholesale/retail level, is taken up with the state government concerned.