

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1885

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010

PRICE OF ONION

Mahto Shri Baidyanath Prasad;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rise in selling prices of onion has been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons in this regard, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to control the price of onion?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base Year 1993-94=100) for onion for the period January, 2009 to January, 2010 indicates that there is no persistent increase in prices of onion except some periodical fluctuations. A statement showing variations in the monthly WPI of onion over the last one year is given below: -

Monthly WPI for Onion

Month Onion

January, 09 321.9

February, 09 305.2

March, 09 287.4

April, 09 233.3

May, 09 232.6

June, 09 231.4

July, 09 230.5

August, 09 229.5

September, 09 242.6

October, 09 304.4

November, 09 357.4

December, 09 348.2

January, 10 349.2

State-wise WPI of onion is not prepared.

The reasons for increase in the prices of onion is drought conditions in Kharif 2009 and heavy rain during harvesting season in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra damaging the crop.

(c): National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) has increased the Minimum Export Price (MEP) of onion during the last three months by US \$ 200 Per Metric Tonne (PMT) from US\$ 300 PMT in the month of October 09 to US \$ 500 PMT in the month of January 2010. Same MEP has been continued for the Month of February and March 2010, so that the export is restricted to some extent making more availability of Onion in domestic market.

Besides, the Government has launched the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) from 2005-06, for holistic development of horticulture sector. Under NHM, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities related to horticulture including fruits and vegetables.