

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5240

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010

SPURT IN PRICES

Alagiri Shri S. ;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Sinh Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether a sudden spurt in prices of essential commodities has become a recurring phenomenon in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the machinery available with the Government to keep a check on the prices;
- (c) whether the Hon`ble Supreme Court, various political parties and leaders and other eminent persons/experts have expressed their concern over the price rise;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) the suggestions/recommendations received from the core group/ high powered group on prices in this regard; and
- (f) the current implementation status of the said suggestions/ recommendations?

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 (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): In 2009-10, there was an increase in prices of some essential commodities such as pulses, sugar, potato and onion largely on account of fall in domestic production and weather fluctuations. Prices have declined in the past three months. Government closely monitors the price situation and has taken proactive measures to improve the domestic availability of essential commodities and soften the price rise. At the retail level the State Governments also have a predominant role in checking price rise.

(c): Yes madam.

(d): Eminent persons have expressed concern over the price rise, including in the Parliament. Debates on price rise were held in both Houses of the Parliament on 23.3.2010. While taking note of the concerns expressed by various people, Government replied in detail the reasons for price rise and measures taken by the Government to stem it.

(e): The Core Group that met on 8-4-2010 constituted 3 working groups who will submit their report to the Core Group in two months.

(f): In view of (e) above does not arise.