

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:357
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
RISE IN PRICES OF FOOD ARTICLES
Panda Shri Prabodh;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

- (a) whether the prices of food articles are still on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a meeting of the High Powered Group was held recently under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to take stock of rise in prices of essential commodities;
- (d) if so, the details of deliberations of the meeting; and
- (e) the follow up action taken thereon?

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) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.357 FOR 20-04-2010 REGARDING RISE IN PRICES OF FOOD ARTICLES.

(a) & (b): During the last 3 months prices of most essential commodities have been declining or are steady as indicated in the table given below.

(1) Over the past month out of the 17 essential commodities which are being monitored, prices of 4 commodities are steady and of 6 commodities have declined in Delhi.

Date: 15-04-2010 DELHI Unit: (Rs./Kg.)

Commodity	Daily Retail Price			% Variation	
	Current Date	1 MonthBack	3 Month Back	1 MonthBack	3 MonthBack
	15-04-2010	15-03-2010	15-01-2010	15-03-2010	15-01-2010

Rice	23	23	23	0	0
Wheat	14	15	14.5	-7.14	-3.57
AttaS	16	17	17.5	-6.25	-9.38
Gram Dal	35	35.5	39	-1.43	-11.43
Tur Dal #	76	68	87	10.53	-14.47
Urad Dal	68.5	64	73	6.57	-6.57
Moong Dal	88	76	82	13.64	6.82
Masoor Dal	62	55	63	11.29	-1.61
Sugar	34	37	47	-8.82	-38.24
MilkA@	23	22	22	4.35	4.35
Groundnut Oil	111	114	112	-2.70	-0.90
Mustard Oil	65	67	71	-3.08	-9.23
Vanaspati	56	55	56	1.79	0
Tea Loose	156	156	156	0	0
Salt Pack I	12	12	12	0	0
Potato	9	9	11	0	-22.22
Onion	15	18	23	-20	-53.33

Source: State civil supplies Dept.

(c) to (e): Yes Madam, First meeting of the Core Group was held on 08-04-2010, chaired by Prime Minister and attended by Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Agriculture and Food Minister Shri Sharad Pawar, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Chairman of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council Shri C. Rangarajan, Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra and West Bengal, Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Food Minister, Punjab.

The Core group deliberated on the following issues:

- (1) Increasing agriculture production and productivity, including long term policies for sustained agriculture growth.
- (2) Reducing the gap between farm gate and retail prices in all agriculture produce, especially in produce consumed widely by vulnerable sections.
- (3) On suggestions by some States to re-introducing some Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 and amending the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities (PBMMSEC), Act 1980.
- (4) Ensuring better and effective delivery of essential commodities to the vulnerable sections of society.
- (5) Augmenting warehousing and storage capacity
- (6) Issues relating to agriculture inputs.

It was therefore decided that the following three Working Groups will be constituted:

a. Group on Agriculture Production

Chief Minister, Haryana
Chief Minister, Punjab
Chief Minister, West Bengal
Chief Minister, Bihar

b. Group on Consumer Affairs

Chief Minister, Gujarat
Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh
Chief Minister, Maharashtra
Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu

c. Group on Food and Public Distribution

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh
Chief Minister, Assam
Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister

The Working Groups will be serviced by the Departments concerned and would present their recommendations to the Core Group in two months.