

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:362
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
FOOD INFLATION
Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) the details regarding the core food inflation in the country between 1st April, 2010 to 30th June, 2010;
- (b) whether the wholesale and retail price of essential food items have not shown a downward trend over the past 30 months;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has detected any significant changes in the consumption patterns across the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the quantum of wheat, rice and pulses in the godowns of the FCI and other Government agencies over and above the strategic measures during the past three years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10; and
- (g) the number of times Government has intervened through its instrumentalities to moderate the prices of international commodities in the past three decades?

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): The details of the core food inflation in the country between 1st April, 2010 to 30th June, 2010 is given in Annexure I.
- (b) & (c): Yes Madam, details are given in Annexure II.
- (d) : No such study has been done.
- (e) : Does not arise.
- (f) : The details of minimum buffer norms fixed and the actual stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool during the past three years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given in Annexure III. In the case of pulses there is no procurement and pulses are not stored by the Government.
- (g) : Data on number of times Government has intervened through its instrumentalities to moderate the prices of international commodities in the past three decades is not readily available.

Since 2006, Government has taken several measures to moderate the prices of international commodities which include:

- (i) Reducing import duties to zero - for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and sugar.
- (ii) Reducing import duties on refined & hydrogenated oils & vegetable oils.
- (iii) Levy obligation removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/ refined sugar.
- (iv) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except kabuli chana).
- (v) Export of Basmati Rice at Minimum Export Price (MEP) of \$900 per MT has been restricted.
- (vi) Imported commodities are exempt from stock limits.