

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:98
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
PRICE MONITORING BOARD
Patel Shri Bal Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a High Powered Price Monitoring Board to monitor the price situation in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Board held regular meeting during the last two years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the rationale behind its continued existence;and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to set up a mechanism to regularly monitor the prices and take necessary remedial steps in case of price rise?

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) to (c): Yes Madam. A meeting of the High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB) was held on 4.3.2009 to review the price situation of essential commodities in the country. However, now in pursuance of the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Prices, the prices are monitored by the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) regularly which is also headed by the Cabinet Secretary and has members of same level as in High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB).

(d): The prices of essential commodities are being reviewed regularly by the Committee of Secretaries (CoS).

(e): There is already a mechanism to monitor the prices of the essential commodities by the Government. The Price Monitoring Cell of the Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the retail prices and wholesale prices of 21 essential commodities. Retail and wholesale prices are monitored for 49 centres and 37 centres respectively based on the information received from the State Food and Civil Supplies Departments. The CoS regularly reviews the prices of essential commodities and take decision for taking remedial steps by the concerned Departments.