

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2246

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010

COMMITTEE ON PRICE RISE

Banerjee Shri Ambica;Basheer Shri E. T. Muhammed;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Nagar Shri Surendra Singh;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether the committee/panel of Ministers/Chief Ministers formed by the Government to recommend measures to check prices has identified the issues to be examined by it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said committee/panel has made any suggestions/recommendations, so far; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

**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) & (b): A Conference of Chief Ministers was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 06.02.2010. It was recognized in the Conference of Chief Ministers that the prime concern of the Government was the insulation of the poor and the vulnerable from adverse price movements, the responsibility of which had to be shared by the Governments at the Centre and in the States through a coordinated approach. A Standing Core Group of State Chief Ministers and concerned Central Ministers was constituted as decided in the Chief Ministers Conference held on 06.02.2010. The first meeting of the Core Group was held on 08.04.2010 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. It was decided in this meeting to set up Working Groups, inter alia, on Consumer Affairs to be chaired by the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

(c) & (d): This Working Group is required to suggest strategies/plan of action on reducing the gap between farmgate and retail prices and better implementation and amendment to Essential Commodities Act. The first meeting of the Working Group on Consumer Affairs was held on 21.10.2010. The report of the Working Group is yet to be finalized.