

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1859
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011
MONITORING OF PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
Sharma Shri Madan Lal

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

- (a) whether there has been an inflationary trend in the commodities monitored by the Price Monitoring Unit (PMU) during the last one decade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the inflationary trend in wholesale and retail prices of the said commodities;
- (c) whether there has been any period of 90 days or more when the wholesale or retail prices of the said commodities have shown a downward trend on an year on year basis either cumulatively or commodity-wise over the same period;
- (d) if so, the comparative figures of the wholesale and retail prices of the said commodities;
- (e) whether divergence between the wholesale and retail prices of these commodities has been recorded and analysed on an yearly basis and there is a wide gap between the retail and wholesale prices reflected on the PMU website and the actual prices in the market, and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a): It is observed that over the decade there has been a general increase in the average prices, with years of lower prices in between, in commodities monitored by the Price Monitoring Cell. Details of average all India wholesale and retail prices are at Annexure I.

(c) & (d): Data is not available in readily usable form.

(e) & (f): Details of the divergence between wholesale and retail prices are given in Annexure II. State governments collect wholesale and retail prices from specific markets in a particular centre. There is a possibility of prices differing from market to market within the same centre owing to differences in the quality of the product, transport costs, as well as difference in demand preferences.