

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2462  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011  
HIKE IN PRICES OF MILK, VEGETABLES AND FRUITS  
Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Bali Ram Dr.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether sharp increase in the prices of vegetables, fruits and milk has been registered in the country recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to develop a national market to ensure adequate supply of fruits, vegetables and milk to check the rise in prices of such products;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the other steps taken to check the sharp increase in prices of vegetables, fruits and milk in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for vegetable, fruits and milk have shown fluctuations during the period June 2010- June 2011. Details of Monthly Wholesale Price Index(WPI) of Fruits, Vegetables and Milk ( base year 2004-05=100) are given below;

Month/Year Vegetables Fruits Milk

Month/Year	Vegetables	Fruits	Milk
Weight	1.74	2.11	3.24
June 2010	175.1	162.7	171.9
July	172.0	170.7	174.6
Aug.	176.2	149.9	176.5
Sep.	189.5	152.7	177.1
Oct.	193.9	159.7	177.2
Nov.	189.2	161.8	177.9
Dec.	240.5	159.5	178.7
Jan-2011	261.1	161.8	179.3
Feb	158.3	170.7	180.4
March	143.3	184.5	174.6
April	146.8	232.7	175.4
May	148.5	215.0	182.9
June	161.9	205.7	193.4

The reasons for the fluctuations are mismatch between demand and supply due to seasonal factors.

(c) & (d): As a follow up to the announcement made by the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech, 2011-12, Government has launched a new Scheme on Vegetable initiative for urban Cluster with an outlay of Rs. 300 crore during 2011-12, under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The Scheme envisages development of vegetables clusters for ensuring supply of good quality vegetables to one city or town in every State having a population of one million and above. In the case of North East and the State of Goa which do not have any city with one million population, the capital city having less than one million population is covered. Initially, this programme is to be implemented for a period of one year (2011-12). The Scheme covers all aspects relating to vegetable production, production & supply of planting material to marketing up to the retail level along with support for conducting baseline survey, formation of farmers groups, their linkages to aggregators and market besides training and capacity building of vegetables growers in the identified clusters. In addition efforts are made under National Horticulture Mission to increase the production of fruits and vegetable on long term basis. Incentives are also extended through market reforms.

Schemes such as Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP) are being implemented to increase milk production and its marketing in a cost effective manner.

(e): The other steps taken in this regard are,

i. reduced import duties to zero for onions.

ii. NDDB has been allowed to import 30000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder and 15000 MT of butter, butter oil and Anhydrous milk fat at zero percent concessional duty under Tariff Rate Quota(TRQ) for the year 2011-12.

iii. Export of milk powders (including skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, dairy whitener and infant milk food), casein and casein products has been prohibited with effect from 18.02.2011.

iv. The MEP of onions other than Bangalore Rose onions and Krishnapuram onions was raised to increase the domestic availability of onion.