

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2433  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011  
FUTURES TRADING  
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has allowed Futures Trading in essential commodities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the commodities in which Futures Trading is allowed;
- (c) whether the Government has analyzed the negative impact of this sort of trading on the common man; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) : Yes Madam.

(b) : The following essential commodities are presently traded in the futures market: Wheat, Chana, Barley, Potato, Mustard Seed, Refined Soya Oil, Soyabean, Refined Mustard Oil, Gur and Sugar.

(c) & (d): As per available information, no study has pointed out any negative impact of futures trading in commodities on the common man. On the contrary, the Committee set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen (report submitted in April 2008) could not determine any conclusive causal relationship between futures trading & inflation.

RBI, in its Annual Report for the year 2009-2010 (July 2010) came to the conclusion that commodity prices in India seem to be influenced more by other drivers of price changes, particularly demand supply gap in specific commodities, the degree of dependence on imports and international price movements in these commodities.