

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2507
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011
PRICE MONITORING CELL
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether a Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) was set up for monitoring prices and ensuring availability of essential commodities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the objectives of setting up of PMC have been achieved;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) was set up in the Department of Consumer Affairs in 1998. It was entrusted, inter-alia, with the task of monitoring of the retail and wholesale prices of essential commodities. At present, the retail and wholesale prices of 22 essential commodities viz rice, wheat, atta, gram dal, arhar dal, moong dal, urad dal, masoor dal, tea, sugar, salt, potato, onion, vanaspati, groundnut oil, mustard oil, milk, soya oil, palm oil, sunflower oil, gur and tomato are collected from 49 centres based on the information furnished by the State Food and Civil Supplies Departments on a daily basis. The availability of the essential commodities is assessed in the High Level Committee meetings.

(c) & (d): Yes Madam. The objective of setting up of PMC has been achieved as the PMC regularly monitors the retail and wholesale prices of 22 essential commodities on a daily basis. Besides, the price situation of essential commodities is also regularly reviewed at High Level Meetings in the Government. Notes prepared by the Price Monitoring Cell for High Level Committee meetings aid in formulating policies for improving the domestic availability of essential commodities. The decisions taken in these meetings are implemented by the concerned Ministry/Department which is charged with the responsibility of the subject matter of the decision. PMC monitors the action taken on those decisions and gives a feed back to the Government.

(e) : In view of (c) and (d) above, does not arise.