

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4568

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011

RISE IN PRICES

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

- (a) whether the prices of essential commodities including food items have been rising during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether prices of foodgrains increased despite availability of surplus stocks in excess of the storage capacity during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the corrective steps taken in this regard; and
- (e) the details and implementation status of the recommendations made by the Committee of Secretaries and the Cabinet Committee on Prices regarding steps to control prices?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): As per the Wholesale price index (WPI) data during the last one year (July 2010 to July, 2011), there has been a decline in the prices of pulses such as arhar, masoor, moong and urad while there is a marginal increase in the prices of rice and wheat. However, the Prices of some food items such as edible oils, coarse grains, onion and milk have risen during last one year. The details are given in Annexure I.

In the case of edible oils, India imports nearly 50% of its requirement to meet the demand supply mismatch. Prices of edible oils in the domestic market are largely influenced by the prices in the international market. While rise in prices of rice and wheat could be due to the increase in MSP, prices of Milk have gone up due to increase in the input cost and high prices of fodder. Weather and seasonal factors also affect the prices of vegetables.

Details of the prices are given in Annexure I. Government has taken various corrective steps to contain the price rise as given in Annexure II.

(e): The steps taken (Annexure II) to contain the rise in prices of essential commodities are the results of the implementations of the decisions taken in the meetings of Committee of Secretaries and Cabinet Committee on Prices.