

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:3

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

PRICE RISE

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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 increasing continuously leading to rise in food inflation despite a favourable monsoon in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three months, commodity-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the State Governments and the Union Territories are required to send reports to the Union Government regarding action taken under various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act in order to contain price rise;
- (d) if so, the details of the reports received during the last three years, State wise; and
- (e) the details of fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the rising trend of prices of essential commodities?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.3 FOR 22.11.2011 REGARDING PRICE RISE.

(a) & (b); Retail prices of rice, wheat, moong dal, palm oil, potato and salt have shown steady to declining trend over the last three months. A slight increase in the prices of urad dal, tur dal, masur dal, sugar, soya oil, vanaspati, onion and milk is observed; higher increases are observed in the prices of gram dal, groundnut oil, mustard oil, sunflower oil, tea and tomato. Prices of all commodities have moderated over the last month. Details of retail prices prevailing during the last three months is given in Annexure-I.

The demand supply mismatch in pulses and edible oils has led to increased imports. The prices of pulses and edible oil are influenced by the volatility in international prices. In addition, the demand for certain protein-rich food items like pulses, vegetables and milk are increasing due to the rising incomes and change in the dietary patterns. Weather, apart from seasonal factors, contributed to increase in prices of some vegetables. Global food prices also reached their peak in early 2011 and are recently showing signs of moderation.

(c) Yes madam.

(d) : The details of the raids conducted, value of goods confiscated and persons booked for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, during 2008, 2009 and 2010, as reported by State Governments/UT Administrations are at Annexure II to IV. The State Governments/UT Administrations are empowered to detain such persons under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, whose activities are found to be prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community. Details of detention orders issued under the said Act and as reported to the Central Government by the State Governments/UT Administrations during the year 2008, 2009 and 2010 are given below:-

Name of the State 2008 2009 2010

Gujarat 16 31 79

Tamil Nadu 141 112 120

Orissa 01 02 02

Maharashtra - 02 02

Andhra Pradesh 04 ` - 01

Chhattisgarh - - 01

Total 162 147 205

(e) Steps taken by the Government are listed in Annexure V.