

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:209
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
INCREASE IN PRICES OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of vegetables and fruits have registered a sharp increase in the country during the last three months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the existing marketing system to ensure adequate supply of vegetables and fruits in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check spiraling prices of vegetables and fruits 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 has shown increasing trend, while that of fruits showing declining trend with monthly fluctuations during the last three months.

Wholesale. Price Index (WPI) vegetables and fruits (base year 2004-05 = 100):

Period	Vegetables	Fruits
August, 2011	199.4	184.9
September, 2011	216.1	177.1
October, 2011	236.1	178.8

The prices of fruits and vegetables depend upon a large number of factors. These include mismatch between demand and supply due to weather conditions, cost of transportation, storage, role of middlemen and rising demand due to increasing incomes, urbanization etc.

(c)&(d): In order to strengthen the existing marketing system and to ensure adequate supply of vegetables and fruits in the country, there are provisions for assistance for creation of infrastructure for marketing of fruits and vegetables, viz rural markets, wholesale markets and terminal market complexes under National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

(e): To enhance the production and productivity of horticulture crops including fruits and vegetables, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `National Horticulture Mission (NHM)` in the country, from 2005-06. All the States and Union Territories are covered under the Mission except the eight North Eastern States and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand which are covered under the Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEHS).

Further, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a new programme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Cluster

(V1UC), during 2011-12, under the aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The Scheme is being implemented in one city each of 29 States having a population of one million or capital city. Initially, this programme will be implemented for a period of one year (2011-12). The Schemes 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 group, their linkages to aggregators and market besides training and capacity building of vegetables growers in the identified clusters.