

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2122
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
PRICE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of fruits and vegetables have increased manifolds in the country during the last two years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to bring down the prices of fruits and vegetables?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN PROCESSING INDUSTRIES THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b): The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base year 2004-05 = 100) for fruits and vegetables for the last three years is as follows:-

Period	Vegetables (WPI)	Fruits (WPI)	Vegetables (Percentage change)	Fruits (Percentage change)
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change) change)

February 2009	121.0	124.0	-	-
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February 2010	138.4	145.3	14.38	17.18
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February 2011	158.3	170.7	14.38	17.48
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February 2012	160.7	169.8	1.52	- 0.53
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As shown above, the month over month index for vegetables has increased by 1.52 percent in February 2012 compared to 14.38 percent in February 2011 over the corresponding month of the previous year (2010). But the index for fruits decreased by (-) 0.53 in February 2012 as compared to 17.48 in February 2011 over the corresponding month of the previous year (2010).

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

(c): To enhance the production and productivity of horticulture crops including fruits and vegetables the 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 namely, Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC), 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).