

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:138

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012

PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

Alagiri Shri S. ;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Hegde Shri Anant Kumar;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Nagar Shri Surendra Singh;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Roy Shri Arjun;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma;Shantha J.;Singh Shri Bhola

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

- (a) whether the prices of essential commodities including foodgrains have witnessed a rising trend during the last three years due to various factors like rise in demand, increase in cost of inputs and high international price;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether any linkage has been observed between the prices of essential commodities in the country and their export;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to control the prices of food items in the country' including strengthening and universalisation of the Public Distribution System?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): Prices of essential commodities including foodgrains have witnessed a rising trend mainly due to increase in input cost, changing consumption pattern etc. 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. Details of the price trend (Annual Wholesale Price Index) is given in Annexure I. Several measures have been taken to address the issues of rising prices in essential commodities.(Annexure-II)

(c); No such linkage appears to exist.

(d): Does not arise

(e): Universalisation of Public Distribution System is not feasible. Details of the Measures taken by the government to stabilise the prices of essential commodities are given in Annexure II.