

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4461

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009

PRICE RISE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

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

- (a) whether the global prices of essential commodities including foodgrains have increased exorbitantly during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made regarding the impact of low monsoon and rising international price of essential commodities on their availability and prices in the domestic market;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any Committee has been set up to study the situation and devise ways to overcome the present crisis:
- (f) if so. the details thereof: and
- (g) the remedial steps taken to improve the availability and control prices of essential commodities?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The international prices of foodgrains such as Rice, Wheat, Maize, and pulses such as chana, Yellow peas and edible oils have declined over the last one year. However, the international prices of sugar, pulses such as tur dal, urad dal, Massor dal, Moong dal have registered an increase.

(c) & (d): According to latest report, as on 24-07-09, the kharif area coverage is more than 50% of normal in case of cotton, jo war, maize, bajra, coarse cereals, sugarcane, jute and oilseeds. However, less area coverage has been reported in rice (43%) and pulses (46.02%). Kharif sowing continues upto end of July/ first week of August. Therefore, area coverage is expected to improve. Secondly, Government has adequate stocks of wheat and rice. It has procured 25.23 million tonne of wheat and 31.91 million tonne of rice as of 24-07-2009. Substantial quantities of edible oil, pulses and sugar have also been imported, which provide the necessary cushion against inflationary pressures and expectations. Hence the overall impact on prices is expected to be marginal.

(e) & (f): Committee of Secretaries regularly monitors the price situation and gives directions to the Ministries/Departments concerned on appropriate remedial measures to be taken.

(g): The Measures taken by Government to improve the availability and control prices of essential commodities are given in the Annexure.