

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4463  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009  
FUTURES TRADING IN VEGETABLES  
Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) whether prices of vegetables, including potato continue to rise despite a very good harvest during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the system of futures trading in vegetables including potato to check its prices; and
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

**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): Delayed Monsoon, hike to petrol and diesel prices on 01-07-2009, increase in demand owing to rise in prices of pulses as well as seasonal factors have contributed to increase in prices of vegetables and fruits. Production of potato in 2008-09 is estimated at 314.63 lakh tonnes. However, potato production in West Bengal, Bihar and eastern UP was affected because of late blight disease; lesser quantities of potatoes in cold storage; increased demand from processing industries; delayed monsoon leading to delay in potato planting; increased rates of other vegetables, resulting in increased demand for potatoes in domestic markets. Potato prices are ruling in the range of Rs. 10 per kg to Rs. 23 per kg across the country as on 30-07-09.

The total onion production in the country during the year 2008-09 is estimated around 76.37 lakh tonnes compared to last year's production of about 74.51 lakh tonnes. Approximately more than 25 lakh MT of onion are stored in different states in the current year, which is 20% more compared to last year. Government has also controlled exports of onions through the mechanism of MEP. As a result, onion prices have been stable in the past few months and in most cities have been around Rs.10 to 15 per kg as on 30-07-09.

(c) & (d): There is no futures trading in vegetables at present, with the exception of potatoes. After a period of suspension from 07-05-2008 to 30-11-2008, the futures trading in potatoes has been revived.

Prices of most of the vegetables including (potatoes ) are rising due to reasons given at (a) and (b) above and therefore, cannot be attributed to futures trading.