

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:142

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012

FOOD PRICES

Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) whether the prices of essential commodities including food items in the open market continue to be high despite low food inflation figures during the last three months;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the methodology adopted to calculate food inflation in the country; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken/taken by the Government to check the prices of essential commodities in the retail market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

- (a) & (b): No, Madam. Prices of edible oils and tomato have shown some increase, however, prices of some essential food items such as Pulses, Sugar and Onion have declined over the period of last three months. In the case of Potato, a mixed trend is observed. The prices of edible oils are influenced by the volatility in international prices as the demand-supply mismatch in edible oils has led to increased imports. Weather, apart from seasonal factors, contributed to increase in prices of some vegetables such as tomato.
- (c): Details are given in Annexure I.
- (d): Steps taken by the Government to stabilise the prices of essential commodities are given in Annexure II.