

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5085
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
PRICE MONITORING CELL
Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil

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

- (a) whether the Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) monitors the retail and wholesale prices of essential commodities across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of centres and the location from which the PMC receives informations on retail and wholesale prices;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up more such centres in rural and backward areas of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Price Monitoring Cell is entrusted with, inter-alia, the task of monitoring prices of select essential commodities and other matters related to price scenario. This monitoring is done in respect of both retail and wholesale prices on a daily basis. The Cell monitors the prices of 22 essential commodities, namely, rice, wheat, atta, gram, tur/arhar, moong, urad, masoor, tea, milk, sugar, gur, vanaspati, mustard oil, groundnut oil, soya oil, sunflower oil, palm oil, potato, onion, tomato and salt. These prices are collected in respect of 49 centres spread all over the country through the Civil Supplies Department of States/UT Governments. The list of centers and their locations are enclosed as per Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): In addition to the existing 49 centers, it is proposed to add about 10 centres annually bringing the number of reporting centres to 100 by the end of 12th Plan. Priority will be given to unrepresented areas in the first instance; thereafter centers will be added as required on a region-wise basis.