

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2561
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
PRICE MONITORING CELL
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether a Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) was set up for monitoring the prices and availability of essential commodities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the prices of wheat, pulses, sugar and edible oils have risen manifold recently despite the presence of PMC;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the failure of PMC to control prices and ensure availability of essential commodities; and
- (e) the steps taken to bring down the rising prices?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Price Monitoring Cell has been set up with, inter-alia, the task of monitoring prices of select essential commodities. 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, which include rice, wheat, pulses, sugar, edible oils and vegetables. These prices are collected from 52 reporting centres across the country by the Civil Supplies Department of States/UT's.

(c) to (e): The rate of inflation of combined food articles (primary + manufactured) and for the individual items of wheat, pulses, sugar and edible oils are given in the Annexure-I.

The Price Monitoring Cell monitors but is not directly concerned with the control of prices. The Cell analyses the prices collected and places it before the competent authority for deciding on appropriate policy interventions. The fiscal and administrative measures to contain prices, inter alia, including reduction of import duties, ban on exports, imposing stock limits and suspension of futures trading in certain items, have been taken based on the prices monitored by the Cell and other relevant inputs.