

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4072
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012
HIKE IN PRICES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
Ju Dev Shri Dilip Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of fruits and vegetables have increased manifold in the country, including Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof State-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to bring down the prices of fruits and vegetables?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): The wholesale price index (WPI) (Base year 2004-05=100) is compiled on all India basis only. WPI for vegetables and fruits are as follows:-

Period	Vegetables (WPI)	Fruits(WPI)	Vegetables (Percentage change)	Fruits (Percentage change)
October 2009	179.3	136.4		
October 2010	193.9	159.7	8.14	17.08
October 2011	224.3	177.7	15.68	11.27
October 2012	207.6	183.5	-7.45	3.26

As shown above, the month over month index for vegetables has decreased by (-) 7.45 percent in October 2012 compared to 15.68 percent in October 2011 over the corresponding month of the previous year (2010). The index for fruits increased by 3.26 in October 2012 as compared to 11.27 in October 2011 over the corresponding month of the previous year (2010).

The prices of fruits and vegetables depend upon a large number of factors. These include mismatch between demand and supply due to fluctuations in production caused by weather conditions, cost of transportation, storage, supply bottlenecks, role of middlemen, rising demand due to increasing incomes, urbanization etc.

(c): To enhance the production and productivity of horticulture crops including fruits and vegetables the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" in the country from 2005-06. All the States and Union Territories are covered under the Mission except the eight North Eastern States and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand which are covered under the Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEHS). Further, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a new programme namely, Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC), during 2011-12, under the aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The Scheme covers one city in each State, which is either the state capital or any other city with a population of over one million with the exception of Jammu & Kashmir where both capitals have been covered. In Chhattisgarh, Raipur city has been covered. The scheme is being continued during 2012-13 with an outlay of Rs.300.00 crores.