

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2519

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

PRODUCTIVITY OF FOODGRAINS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether prices of essential commodities/foodgrains have declined over the past few months;
- (b) if so, the extent to which the food inflation has fallen and the increase registered in the productivity of foodgrains during the year 2012;
- (c) whether his Ministry has requested to ease the restrictions for export/import imposed on certain food items;
- (d) if so, the details of such items along with the final decision of the Government thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to boost agricultural productivity so as to make the country the leading exporter in agricultural produce?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base Year 2004-05=100) for food grains for the period January, 2012 to January, 2013 indicates that the wholesale prices of foodgrains were increasing during January, 2012 to December, 2012. This trend changed with the WPI of food grains showing a marginal decline in January, 2013. In case of Cereals there has been sharp increase in WPI from 177.4 in January 2012 to 209.5 in January 2013. The WPI of Pulses shows a sharp increase from 208.6 in February 2012 to 260.8 in September 2012, and a decline thereafter from 256.5 in October, 2012 to 246.4 in January, 2013.

As regards inflation of Food Articles, there has been an increasing trend in WPI from January, 2012 to July 2012. Thereafter the index was showing a mixed trend with marginal month to month fluctuations.

A statement showing variations in the monthly WPI of Food Articles, Food grains, Cereals and Pulses over the last one year is given below:-

Period	Food articles	Food Grains	Cereals	Pulses
--------	---------------	-------------	---------	--------

January 2012	191.1	183.3	177.4	210.8
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-------

February 2012	192.4	183.5	178.2	208.6
---------------	-------	-------	-------	-------

March 2012	197.1	185.6	180.3	210.3
------------	-------	-------	-------	-------

April 2012	207.2	188.9	184.3	211.0
------------	-------	-------	-------	-------

May 2012 206.1 190.4 184.3 218.6

June 2012 209.4 193.3 186.3 226.1

July 2012 212.4 199.8 190.3 244.8

August 2012 211.8 207.6 196.5 259.8

September 2012 213.1 212.0 201.6 260.8

October 2012 212.7 214.1 205.0 256.5

November 2012 213.8 215.3 206.7 255.6

December 2012 212.2 216.2 209.0 250.3

January 2013 213.8 215.9 209.5 246.4

Prices of food articles are mainly governed by the market forces of demand and supply, cost of transportation, storage etc. Demand for food articles is rising due to increasing incomes, urbanization etc. Prices of food articles are also affected by the crop conditions and supply chain constraints.

Productivity of foodgrains registered a sharp increase during the year 2011-12 with 2079 kg yield per hectare as compared to 1930 kg yield per hectare in 2010-11.

(c) & (d) Policy decisions on export/import of food items are taken by the Government after Inter Ministerial consultations. Presently, there are no restrictions on export of food item, except for certain restrictions on export of pulses and edible oils in view of domestic demand. Also there are no restrictions on import of major food items.

(e) Various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), and Micro-Irrigation are being implemented by the Government to increase agricultural productivity and production. Steps also taken for increased availability of concessional credit, improved seeds and fertilizers to increase agricultural productivity in the country. The Government has accorded high priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through an integrated watershed development approach.