

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3490  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013  
STATE TAXES ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES  
Singh Shri Ravneet

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

(a) whether the Government has urged the States to waive different types of State level taxes levied on essential commodities in order to fight food inflation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereto indicating the names of States that have reduced or agreed to reduce such taxes?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. The Government have reviewed periodically the position regarding food inflation and taken measures to contain inflation. One of the steps is to urge the State Governments to consider waiving mandi tax, octroi and other local levies which impede smooth movements of essential commodities. This had been emphasized by the Prime Minister in the Annual Conference of Chief Secretaries held in February, 2011. The Government has also highlighted the need to reduce taxes with states for moderating prices of foodgrains in the open market.

The Government of India have not received information from States agreeing to reduce the taxes on essential food commodities.