

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1208

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013

FOOD PRICES

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

- (a) whether the households in rural areas of the country are still spending half of their total expenses on food requirements due to the rising food prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether continuous rise in prices of food products in the country is causing problems for their long term development and welfare; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard and the effective steps taken by the Government to control prices and to overcome this problem?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : According to National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) latest report on key indicators of household consumer expenditures in India 2011-2012 based on its 68th round on Household Consumer Expenditure and Employment-Unemployment, the total share in consumer expenditure in rural sector for food which was at 63.2% in 1993-94 declined to 53.6% in 2009-10 and to 48.6% in the year 2011-12. In the urban sector, the share in total consumption expenditure on food decreased from 54.7% in 1993-94 to 40.7% in 2009-10 and to 38.5% in 2011-12. With increasing incomes, a shift in the pattern of expenditure particularly in food is generally noticed.

(c) & (d) : Prices of food products have been fluctuating. However, with a view to insulate the vulnerable sections of society and consumers. Government has initiated several measures to control the prices and improve the availability of essential commodities. The steps in operation include allowing import of various items of mass consumption at zero or concessional import duties together with restrictions on their exports and prescribing stockholding limits under Essential Commodities Act and allocation of foodgrains under TPDS to BPL and APL families. Government has a scheme for subsidized imported edible oils with a subsidy of Rs.15/- per kg for import of up to 10 lakh tonnes of edible oils which is in operation up to 30.9.2013.