

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1402
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014
STRENGTHENING OF PMC
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

(a) whether the Government has initiated any scheme for strengthening the Price Monitoring Cell as an additional component of the existing Plan Scheme of Consumer Protection Unit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. A new Plan Scheme for strengthening of the Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) with an outlay of Rs.10.81 crore was approved on 31.3.2014. The scheme has been included in the 12th Plan as a sub-component of the Scheme for Consumer Protection.

The major components of the scheme cover strengthening of price monitoring cell at the centre and in states and strengthening services of National Informatics Centre (NIC), specific to PMC. As of today, the major achievements under this scheme include:-

Number of price reporting centres increased from 57 to 64.

Upgraded the IT infrastructure at the PMC in the centre including that of National Informatics Centre.

Proposals approved for release of funds to select States to upgrade the IT infrastructure for efficient price reporting subject to specific guidelines formulated.

Visits undertaken to price reporting centres to inspect price collection as well as providing training to officials of State PMCs.

Services of professional organisations have been subscribed to improve quality of price data analysis.

Undertaking of commodity specific studies/ surveys such as for pulses.