

**Food inflation**

1582. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, despite Governments' efforts, food inflation is not coming down in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps/measures taken by Government to control the food inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir, the point to point rate of inflation for combined food articles (primary + manufactured) based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was at its peak level of 20.22% in February 2010. Except for the month of January 2011, this rate has remained in single digit from November 2010 and reached a low of 1.45% in January 2012. Details of rate of inflation for combined food articles is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(c) The steps taken by the Government to contain the price rise of essential commodities including food articles are given in the Statement-II.

**Statement-I***Rate of Inflation for Combined Food Articles*

	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	2	3	4	5
January	12.14	19.80	10.28	1.45
February	9.10	20.22	6.77	5.93
March	7.31	18.50	6.78	8.70
April	8.76	16.09	8.95	9.31
May	9.37	15.85	8.11	8.93
June	10.42	15.30	8.04	9.03

1	2	3	4	5
July	11.10	14.31	8.17	8.72
August	12.97	11.06	9.19	
September	13.21	11.49	9.06	
October	12.66	10.56	9.29	
November	17.17	6.76	7.94	
December	20.21	9.94	2.70	

Source- Office of Economic Adviser, DIPP

#### ***Statement-II***

*Steps taken by the Government to contain price rise in essential commodities are listed below:*

- Reduced import duties to zero - for rice, wheat, onion, pulses, crude palmolein and to 7.5% for refined & hydrogenated oils & vegetable oils.
- Allowed the import of 50000 tonnes of Skimmed Milk Powder and other milk products.
- Duty-free import of white and raw sugar was extended up to 30.6.2012; presently the import duty has been kept at 10%.
- Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil and forest based oil) and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum).
- Banned export of non-basmati rice and wheat for short period of time.
- Imposed stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, and edible oilseeds and in the case of paddy and rice for specific seven states.
- Ban on export of onion was imposed for short period of time in 2010 and 2011. Exports of Onion were calibrated through the mechanism of Minimum Export Prices (MEP).
- Maintained the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002.

- Suspended Futures trading in rice, urad, tur, guar gum and guar seed.
- To ensure adequate availability of sugar for the households covered under TPDS, the levy obligation on sugar factories was restored to 10% for sugar season 2011-12.
- Government allocated rice and wheat under OMSS Scheme.
- Extended the scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs 10/- kg for distribution to BPL families @ 1 kg per month upto 30.6.2012 and scheme for subsidized imported edible oils with subsidy of Rs.15/- kg for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 litre per ration card per month upto 30.9.2012.

#### Price rise due to insufficient rainfall

†1583. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of pulses have started rising as soon as the news of insufficient rainfall during the monsoon was reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government has found adequate stock of pulses in the country in April, 2012;
- (d) if so, the quantum of pulses found; and
- (e) the excess quantum of pulses needed to fulfil the requirement of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The year-on-year rate of inflation during February to July 2012, based on WPI, in respect of pulses, has been as follows:

Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July
7.86	10.10	11.29	16.77	20.48	28.26

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.