

Commodity	June 2012	June 2013	June 2014*
Edible Oils	9.52	0.07	-0.75
Vanaspati	0.00	1.85	-1.34
Groundnut Oil	19.65	1.42	-16.92
Palm Oil	9.08	-3.69	5.87
Mustard & Rapeseed Oil	19.34	0.66	1.31
Soyabean Oil	8.73	1.53	-2.57
Sunflower Oil	3.93	-1.85	-4.98

Source: Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion

* Latest WPI available.

Food inflation

1136. 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 food inflation has increased during the last six months across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to combat food inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Yes. Over the last six months (*i.e.* January, 2014 to June, 2014), the rate of inflation for Food Articles rose by 6.85% and for Food Products by 1.84% respectively as given in Statement (*See* below).

Rise in the prices of essential food items are due to several factors such as rise in transportation costs, anticipation of deficit rains, supply constraints and artificial shortage due to hoarding and black-marketing.

(c) The recent steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and contain prices of essential food items are as follows:

- Minimum Export Price (MEP) fixed for potatoes at USD 450 per M.T. *w.e.f.* 26.06.2014 and of onions at USD 500 per M.T. *w.e.f.* 2.07.2014 respectively.

- States have been advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from the APMC Act.
- Government has approved the release of additional five million tonnes of Rice to BPL and APL families in states pending implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- Advisory to State Governments issued to take action against hoarding and black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- Imposed stock limits in respect of onion and potato for a period of one year with effect from 3rd July, 2014 under the Essential Commodities Act.
- Based on interaction with the State Governments/UTs on 4th July, 2014, a decision has been taken to amend the Essential Commodities Act to make hoarding and black marketing a non bailable offence and increase the period of detention to one year from existing six months.

Statement

Food Inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (January to June 2014)

Commodity	Wholesale Price Index		% Variation (Jan.-June 2014)
	January 2014	June 2014	
1	2	3	4
Food Articles	233.7	249.7	6.85
Cereals	229.9	231.3	0.61
Rice	230.0	241.1	4.83
Wheat	220.2	206.7	-6.13
Pulses	226.9	233.8	3.04
Gram	208.0	197.5	-5.05
Arhar	214.4	217.0	1.21
Moong	305.4	351.9	15.23

1	2	3	4
Masur	223.1	248.4	11.34
Urad	243.3	269.7	10.85
Vegetables	216.8	271.6	25.28
Potato	198.6	304.0	53.07
Onion	341.6	302.8	-11.36
Tomato	181.8	NA	NA
Fruits	202.4	226.9	12.10
Milk	225.7	237.6	5.27
Eggs, Meat & Fish	284.9	293.1	2.88
Food Products	168.5	171.6	1.84
Sugar	184.5	187.3	1.52
Edible Oils	147.1	145.1	-1.36
Vanaspati	123.4	125.1	1.38
Groundnut Oil	173.0	160.6	-7.17
Palm Oil	128.4	129.9	1.17
Mustard & Rapeseed Oil	159.2	154.2	-3.14
Soyabean Oil	158.6	155.3	-2.08
Sunflower Oil	128.2	125.8	-1.87

Source: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion

Price-rise of sugar

1137. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to increase shortly the sugar prices across the country;