

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has finalized the members of the said panel on trade reforms and terms of reference of it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Prices of ethanol produced by sugar mills

†2500. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decision to mix 5 per cent ethanol with petrol has suddenly caused hike in prices of ethanol produced by sugar mills in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of this hike and annual increase in the profit that sugar mills are likely to get due to this hike; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to transfer share of this profit to consumers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD, AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Central Government has received no such information indicating hike in prices of ethanol produced by sugar mills in the country in the wake of decision of the Government in November, 2012 to have market determined price of ethanol to be decided between Oil Marketing Companies and the ethanol suppliers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fund released under Emergency Feeding Scheme

2501. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fund released under Emergency Feeding Scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether this scheme is applicable across the country;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of fund spent/unsent during the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) the details of results achieved during that period; and
- (f) whether Government is satisfied with the result achieved, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (f) Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) is a food-based intervention of the State Government of Odisha in the KBK districts of Odisha targeted towards old, infirm and destitute persons belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households to provide them food security in their distress conditions. The Scheme is being implemented only in Odisha, in eight KBK Districts namely Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawrangpur, Naupada, Rayagada and Sonepur covering around 2 lakh beneficiaries. Under the scheme, foodgrains (rice) @ 7.5 kg. per person per month at BPL prices are being allocated to the State Government of Odisha since May, 2001 by the Central Government. The scheme is being implemented in the KBK districts under the Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) and Special Central Assistance is allocated by the Planning Commission. During 2012-13, 18,000 tons of rice has been allocated to Government of Odisha at BPL prices by this Department under the scheme. The Department of Food and Public Distribution do not release any funds under the scheme.

The details of funds released/spent under EFP by the State Government of Odisha during the last three years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Amount released	Amount spent
2009-10	2,464.18	2,464.18
2010-11	3,850.00	3,850.00
2011-12	4,015.00	4,015.00
TOTAL:	10,329.18	10,329.18

As regards result achieved during the last three years under the scheme, 2 lakh old, infirm and indigent persons belonging to BPL households have been provided one hot cooked food daily throughout the said period under the EFP in the 8 KBK districts. The State Government of Odisha has reported that they are satisfied with the result achieved under the scheme.

Prices of essential items

†2502. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of essential items including sugar, edible oil, cereals and vegetables are continuously increasing, despite Government's efforts to control prices, due to which gap between the rate of price hike and per capita income is widening; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take necessary steps to give more powers to the price fixing regulatory authority and to improve availability of the essential commodities and to keep control on their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which is an indicator of general price trend, shows that the rate of inflation for primary food articles which was in double digits at 10.17% (October, 2011) declined to 6.62% (October, 2012). The rate of inflation for combined food articles (primary + manufactured) was at 7.73 % for the month of October, 2012 as against 9.29% during the corresponding period of last year. There was an increase in the prices of rice, wheat, pulses (in respect of gram and masur), sugar and edible oils while the prices of vegetables, potato, onion, tomato, fruits and milk registered a declining trend during this period.

As per the Revised Estimates of Annual National Income 2011-12, the rate of growth in per capita Net National Income at current prices during 2011-12 has been higher at 13.6%.

(b) At present there is no such proposal under consideration.

Government has initiated several measures to improve the availability of essential commodities and to control their prices such as allowing import of various items

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.