

Increase in prices of essential commodities including vegetables could be due to several factors such as demand -supply mismatch, increase in cost of inputs, cost of transportation and problems in storage and weather conditions.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing “the Essential Commodities Act 1955” and “the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980” with the objective of preventing hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been repeatedly requested to strictly enforce both the Acts and also monitor enforcement of these Acts.

Government monitors the Wholesale/Retail prices of select essential commodities which include vegetables like potato, onion and tomato through data obtained from 57 Reporting Centres across the country on a continuous basis. The prevailing price situation as well as other factors which have impact on prices both in domestic and international markets are analysed, and based on this decisions are taken to contain price rise.

Measures taken to contain the price rise of essential commodities including vegetables are given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 1009 Part (c) and (d)]

Fund released under emergency feeding scheme

1019. 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 including the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether this scheme is applicable across the country, if not the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of fund spent/unspent State- wise during the last three years;
- (d) the details of results achieved during the last three years; and
- (e) 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 (e) Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) is being implemented only in eight Districts of Odisha namely Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawrangpur, Naupada, Rayagada and Sonepur covering around 2 lakh beneficiaries. This is a food-based intervention of the State Government 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. No funds are provided under the scheme. The Government of India allocates only foodgrains under Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) Scheme @ 7.5 kg. per beneficiary per month for 2 lakh beneficiaries at the BPL prices. Under this programme, old, infirm and destitute persons belonging to BPL household are provided food each day throughout the year.

Government is satisfied with the result achieved as the EFP has provided food security in these districts of the State.

Survey on employment in FPIs

1020. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government undertook any survey regarding number of SCs/STs employed in Food Processing Industries (FPI) both in Government as well as private sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) As per the latest census [(Fourth All India Census of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) conducted (with base reference year 2006-07)] wherein the data was collected till 2009 and results published in 2011-12, the employment in food products and beverage industry of MSMEs in Registered Sector was 14.68 lakh. Of this, employment in respect of SC and ST was 1.77 lakh and 0.83 lakh respectively.

Invitation of IGPB by WWTG

1021. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Grape Processing Board (IGPB) has been Invited by