

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 27.11.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**PRICE RISE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES .**

951

Shri Praveen Rashtrapal

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

- (a) the reasons for price-rise in sugar, onion and other essential foodgrain items during last two years; and
- (b) the action being taken by his Ministry to arrest price-rise in essential commodities?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(Prof. K.V. Thomas)

(a): The less than estimated sugar production in the country during the last sugar season 2008-09 and the anticipated low production of sugar during the current sugar season 2009-10 led to escalation in sugar prices.

Weather, apart from seasonal factors, may have contributed to increase in prices of vegetables and fruits. Onion prices increased primarily on account of the floods in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and the heavy rain in Maharashtra, which affected the kharif crop of onion and its supply to markets across the country. Domestic prices of pulses rose mainly on account of the supply-demand mismatch and hardening of international prices.

(b): The Government Measures to check the prices of essential commodities are given in Annexure I.