

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:817  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003  
FLUCTUATING RATES OF ONIONS  
SHRINWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the price monitoring cell has come across the fluctuating rates of onions in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether there was an attempt to create artificial shortage of onions in the market by a group of merchants in Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV )

(a)&(b): The prices of onion increased from the last week of September, 2003 till mid October, 2003. After the arrival of new crop in large quantities, the prices started declining from the third week of October, 2003. Prices of onion are regularly monitored on a daily basis and the Government is keeping a close watch on its availability.

(c)&(d): The spurt in the prices of onion was due to shortage caused by unseasonal rains in the main onion growing areas of Maharashtra. The situation improved after arrivals of new crop in large quantities in the market.