

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2926

ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007

PRODUCTION OF POTATO

Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Pathak Shri Brajesh;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of potato has reduced during the current year as compared to previous years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there has been steep hike in the prices of potato over the last few years;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the enquiry is being conducted to find out the reasons for increasing prices of potato; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): No, Sir. There is no reduction in production of potato during the year 2006-07 from that in 2005-06.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): The prices of horticulture commodities such as potato are generally more volatile due to various factors such as fluctuations in production, seasonality and variability of their arrivals in the Market. A point to point comparison of potato prices, measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI Base-1993-94) shows that between August 5, 2006 and August 4, 2007, the price rise has been 3.99%, which is less than the general rate of inflation. However, price rise corresponding to WPI on August 6, 2005 was relatively much higher than the general rate of inflation.

(e) & (f): There is a mechanism of regular monitoring of prices and market arrival of various essential commodities, including potato, and corrective measures are taken as and when required.