


Publication: The Times Of India Lucknow;Date: Mar 5, 2010;Section: Times Business;Page: 15



# Pulses, potatoes push food inflation to 17.8%

## TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Food inflation rose marginally to 17.87% for the week ended February 20 on the back of higher prices of milk, wheat, rice and vegetables. The figure in the previous week was at 17.58%. On an annual basis, price of rice increased 10%, wheat 14%, pulses 35%, onions 11% and potatoes 28%.

Inflation in fuel, power light and lubricant group was 9.59%, slightly lower than 9.89% in the previous week. However, it is expected to surge significantly next week when the impact of the fuel price hike would be reflected in the index.

The Budget last week raised customs duty on petrol and diesel to 7.5% from 2.5%, while excise duty was raised by Re 1 on non-branded (normal) petrol and diesel. This saw the oil companies immediately hike prices. Beginning February 27, petrol prices rose by Rs 2.67 a litre and diesel by Rs 2.58 per litre in Delhi.

FM Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday had blamed the multi-level supply chain system for stoking prices of food articles in the country. "Particularly with regards to food, I do agree that the cost of intermediation is very high from farm gate to the wholesale markets and from wholesale markets to retail markets," he had said.

### Deeper Dent In Your Pocket

Commodity	Price rise y-o-y (%)
Pulses	35.23
Potatoes	27.69
Vegetables	15.45
Milk	15.28
Wheat	14.00
Cereals	11.58
Onions	11.14
Fruits	10.41
Rice	9.62

