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Food Inflation in India - causes and Trends

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Abstract :-

Inflation in India is said to be very sensitive to the agricultural production and particularly the food grain production. The originating cause of inflation in India case is the fall in agricultural or food grains production, creating a situation of food shortage inflation which through its spread to other sectors causes the general price level to move up. This paper aims to put light on the causes of food inflation in India. The study examines that the both demand and supply factor have contributed to the recent surge in food inflation in India.

Key words:- Inflation, food inflation, causes of food inflation, trends in food inflation

Introduction :-

A continuous rise in the general price level over a period of time has been the most common feature of both developed and developing countries. Inflation is the most serious macro economic problems. Confronting the less developed countries inflation is a condition, when cost of services coupled with goods rise and the entire economy seems to go haywire. Inflation reduces the value of money and makes it difficult for the common people. When inflation rising in economy people have to spend more to maintain the standard of living. So inflation is eating up the saving of an average man.

Food inflation and it's causes:

High food inflation has emerged as a major economic challenge in resent times. Economics survey 2009-10 reports suggested a high double digit increase in food inflation with sign of inflation spreading to various other sectors as well. Each episode of food articles and food product inflation was proceed by a supply shortfall. According to Bhattacharya and Abhijit Sen food inflation in India during the period 2006-13 was one of the highest among emerging market economics and nearly bauble the inflation witnessed in India during the previous decade.

Both demand and supply factors have contributed to the recent surge in food inflation in India. On the demand side, rising per capita income and diversification of Indian diets has raised the demand for high values. Food products and thereby added to inflation any pressures. Increase the demand relative to the supply of the commodity results in upward pressure in commodity prices. Other hand supply side factors like rise in prices of key inputs minimum support prices and fiscal deficits have also impacted the prices of various commodities. Agricultural wage inflation is found to be a universal driver of food commodities inflation as well as the aggregate food inflation. The rise in

international food prices is also enhanced to domestic prices impact of international prices, factors that have exacerbated the demand supply mismatch and the role played by rise in prices of key inputs.

Trends in food Inflation :-

The consumer food price index (CEPI) basket comprises various categories such cereals, pulses, vegetables, fruits milk and eggs, meat and fish food inflation remained high during 2010-11 to 2013-14. Supply side constrains have been causing inflationary spurts from time to time in particular in pulses, edible oils and vegetables.

CEPI- based inflation averaged 11.8 percent during 2012-13 to 2013-14 and thereafter declined sharply to 6.4 percent in 2014-15 and further eased to 4.6 percent in April-December 2015-16 Table 1.4 show that cereal inflation declined significantly from 13.2 percent in 2013-14 to 5.2 percent in 2014-15 and 1.7 percent in 2015-16. The prices of most protein based commodities such as egg, meat, fish, milk too eased significantly during April-Dec 2015-16. The only exception was the pulses and products category with an average price rise of 29.6 percent during the current year due to Shortfall in production of tur and gram. The prices of potato and onion were volatile during 2014-15 and 2015-16, yet overall inflation in vegetables remained law.

Table 1.1
Inflation in CPI food groups (In percent)

100 E	Weights	Weights	od groups	The state of the s		
		rreignts	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Base	2010	2012	2010	2010		(Apr-Dec) F
Food (CFPI)	42.7	39.1	12.2	2010	2012	2012
Cereals and products	14.6	9.7	mc 6x3 25724 700 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 00	11.3	6.4	4.6
Meat and fish	2.9	3.6	10.5	13.2	5.2	1.7
Egg*		N. N. S.	12.2	12.1	6.3	5.9
557975388985 24355690 https://doi.org/10.1016/10.1016/		0.4		-	3.2	1.2
Milk and products	7.7	6.6	10.4	8.7	10.3	000 E 000 CO
Oils and fats	3.9	3.6	16.6	1.8	2.4	5.7
Fruits	1.9	2.9	7.5	11.2	S SANSANS SANSANS	3.9
Vegetables	5.4	6.0	20.6	A CONTRACTOR OF STREET	13.9	2.3
Pulses and products	2.7	2.4	N. S. 2N. SZSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS	26.0	3.4	1.0
Sugar and confectionery	1.9	1.4	12.3	4.2	7.9	29.6
Spices	1.7	655 m25 m2458_3650 men	12.5	-0.7	-0.4	-9.5
ource: CSO.	L.V	2.5	3,1	7.2	8.6	9.5

Notes: P: Provisional; *Egg, which was part of the subgroup 'egg, fish and meat' in the 2010 series, has been treated as a separate subgroup in the 2012 series.

Both WPI based foods inflation and the CPI based food inflation have been moving in tandem. Table 1.2 shows that inflation in WPI food articles which was rulings high at 2.8 percent in 2013-14 declined significantly to 6.1 percent in 2014-15 and further to 3.0 percent in April- Dec 2015-16. The decline in food articles inflation during 2015-16 so far was mainly on account of a fall in the prices of cereals, vegetables, fruits, milk, egg, fish and meat. However a spike in the prices of pulses on account of low domestic production kept food grain prices high.

Table No. 1.2
Inflation in WPI food groups (In percent)

	Weights	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (Apr-Dec)P
All food	24.3	9.3	9.4	4.9	1.9
Food articles	14.3	9.9	12.8	6.1	3.0
Foodgrains	4.1	14.6	9.1	4.0	6.7
Cereals	3.4	13.4	12.8	3.6	-0.3
Pulses	0.7	19.6	-5.5	5.9	39.5
Vegetables	1.7	17.2	40.2	-6.1	-4.3
Fruits	2.1	1.3	7.5	19.0	1.1
Milk	3.2	7.2	6.0	10.0	3.7
Egg, meat & fish	2.4	14.1	12.8	2.4	0.9
Condiments & spices	0.6	-11.8	17.2	21.7	14.8
Food products	10.0	8.I	3.2	2.4	-0.4
Sugar	1.7	11.3	-2.4	-0.3	-13.2
Edible Oils	3.0	9.1	-0.8	-1.3	2.6

Source: Office of Economic Adviser, DIPP.

Note: P: Provisional

Conclusion :-

India is experiencing high Rate of growth in the last two decade but the growth has been coupled with high Rate of food price inflation. The growth has been very uneven across sectors with agriculture remained high during 2010-11 to 2013-14. Both demand and supply side factor affecting to food inflation increase in food inflation with sign of inflation spreading to various other sector as well. So food inflation is badly affected to the middle man and also farmer.

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