

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 883
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/12/2017

RISE IN PRICES OF VEGETABLES

883. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that prices of most vegetables have recently shot up sharply making it difficult even for the middle class families to manage their household budget in the National Capital;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is also aware that prices of vegetables in the wholesale market are not so high but the retailers who are also trading in the same market are selling them at a very high rate; and
- (d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to curb the abnormal rise of prices by the retailers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) : All India annual inflation rate for vegetables, as per Sub-Group level Consumer Price Index data released by M/o Statistics & Programme Implementation, is given in the table below:

Month	Inflation rate (%)
Aug' 2017	6.16
Sep' 2017	3.92
Oct' 2017	7.47
Nov' 2017	22.48 (P)

P = Provisional

(c) & (d) : The difference between the prices of essential commodities including vegetables in retail and wholesale market is due to various factors such as transportation cost, loading/unloading expenses, grading/sorting, wholesaler's margin, wastages during movement/weighing, location of retail shops, fixed overhead expenses of retailers and margin of retailers etc.

Government of India has made enabling provision allowing States to impose stock limit on onions till 31.12.2017. Letters were written to States to take necessary and corrective measures by way of licensing, imposition of stock limits and movement restrictions. They were also requested to hold periodical meetings with traders, farmers, retailers and consumer associations at State and District levels to impress upon them the need to desist from unfair and illegal trade practices and profiteering. Government has also requested States to initiate action against unscrupulous traders and hoarders of onion under Essential Commodities Act.
