

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No.885**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/12/2017

**RISE IN PRICES OF ONION AND TOMATO**

885. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) whether prices of onion and tomato had reached to Rs. 80/- per kg. in retail market during November, 2017;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is unable to check price rise of essential vegetables, particularly onion and tomato, as per the recent statement of the Minister; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE**

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

**(SHRI C.R.CHAUDHARY)**

(a) & (b) : The all India average retail price of onions and tomatoes based on prices in identified markets catering to high, middle and low income consumers, reached to a maximum of ₹ 45.54/- per kg and ₹ 48.71/- per kg respectively in November 2017.

(c) & (d) : Prices of essential commodities including vegetables are affected by various factors such as mismatch in demand and supply, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints, artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing etc. Prices during current year is also influenced by the decline of around 31% in crop area of kharif onion during 2017-18 affecting its supply.

Government took various measures to control the rising price of onions. Export of onions is permitted only on Letter of credit subject to Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 850 F.O.B per MT till 31.12.2017. Government has enabled States to impose stock limit on onions and advised the producing States to take action against hoarders/traders engaging in illegal practices. Government directed NAFED and SFAC to procure 10,000 MT and 2,000 MT respectively from producing regions for supply in consuming areas. MMTTC was directed to import 1000 MT of onions with a provision for additional 1000 MT at the same rate. Letters were written to States to indicate their respective demand of onions. Government is retailing onions through SAFAL, NCCF and auction in mandies in Delhi to moderate prices.

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