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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2788
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021

RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

2788 SHRI VAIKO: SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to constitute an Expert Committee to study and analyse the reasons for rising inflation, if so, by when such a Committee would be constituted;
(b) if not, the steps taken to find out the reasons for inflationary trend in prices of essential commodities;
(c) the steps taken to control inflation to help the common man; and
(d) the monetary and other measures taken to control the prices of essential commodities, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

(a) to (d) : Government monitors the status of prices of essential commodities through 135 price monitoring centres across the country. These price trends are analysed on real-time basis by an Inter-Ministerial Committee which makes appropriate recommendations for policy interventions.

Government has taken various measures from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items which, inter-alia, include appropriately utilizing trade and fiscal policy instruments like import duty and export management through instruments like Minimum Export Price, export restrictions, etc. to regulate domestic availability and moderate prices; imposition of stock limits and advising States for effective action against hoarders & black marketers; and promulgation of appropriate Minimum Support Prices to incentivize farmers for increasing production. Government is also implementing Schemes which, inter alia, include Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), etc. for increasing agricultural production and productivity through appropriate interventions. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses and onion by releasing stocks from the buffer. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing a scheme "Operation Greens" for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain which, inter alia, has the objective of price stabilization for producers and consumers through production planning in the TOP clusters and introduction of dual use varieties.

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