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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1360
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

RISE IN PRICES OF FOOD ITEMS

1360 SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:
SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of food items, particularly vegetables and fruits have increased relentlessly from 50 per cent to 100 per cent during the last few months;
(b) if so, the details of the price variation of food items including vegetables and common fruits during the last five months; and
(c) the steps taken by Government to control the prices of these essential commodities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b) : The percentage increase/decrease in the average retail prices of 22 essential food commodities in April, May, June and July, 2021 over the respective corresponding months of 2020 are given at **Annexure.**

(c) : To curb the increase in prices in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has taken several measures with respect to essential food items like pulses and edible oil.

In order to ensure effective intervention during price rise situations, the Government has procured pulses and onion in 2020-21 and 2021-22. The buffers are built by procuring stocks from the farmers/farmers' associations and subsequently utilised for cooling down prices through supply to states and disposal through Open Market sales.

Further, with the objective of curbing hoarding and resultant artificial scarcity of pulses, the Government imposed stock limit on all pulses except Moong under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, on 02.07.2021. The stock limit order has had a salutary effect in terms of softening of prices. Thereafter, Government issued an amended order under the EC Act on 19.07.2021 wherein stock limits have been imposed on four pulses namely, Tur, Masoor, Urad and Chana for a period upto 31st October, 2021 as follows:- Wholesalers: 500 MT (subject to the condition that there should not be more than 200 MT of one variety); Retailers: 5 MT; Millers: Stock limits of last 6 months production or 50% of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher. The order has made it mandatory for stockholder entities to declare their stock position on the portal of the Department of Consumer Affairs, and to bring the stocks down to the prescribed limit within 30 days, in case the stock held by them exceeds the limit.

Continuing with the proactive measures to augment domestic availability of pulses, changes have been made in the import policy by shifting Tur, Urad and Moong from restricted category to free category for the period from 15th May 2021 to 31st October 2021. Thereafter, basic import duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess on Masur have been brought down to zero and 10% respectively. Additionally, 5-year MoUs have been signed with Myanmar for annual import of 2.5 LMT of Urad and 1 LMT of Tur, and with Malawi for annual import of 0.50 LMT of Tur. Further, the MoU with Mozambique for annual import of 2 LMT Tur has been extended for another 5 years.

To soften the prices of edible oils, the duty on Crude Palm Oil (CPO) has been cut by 5% from 30th June 2021 until 30th September 2021. This reduction has brought down the effective tax rate on CPO to 30.25% from the earlier 35.75%. Further, the duty on Refined palm oil/Palmolein has been reduced to 37.5% from 45%. A revised import policy for Refined Bleached Deodorized (RBD) Palm Oil and RBD Palmolein has been put in place from 30th June 2021 under which these items have been removed from restricted to free category.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1360 FOR 30.07.2021 REGARDING "RISE IN PRICES OF FOOD ITEMS".

Percentage Increase/Decrease in all-India Average Retail Prices of 22 Essential Food Commodities for April, May, June and July, 2021 over the Corresponding Months of the Previous Year (2020).

Commodity	Percentage Increase/Decrease (-) in all-India Average Monthly Retail Prices			
	April, 2021 over April, 2020	May, 2021 over May, 2020	June, 2021 over June, 2020	July, 2021* over July, 2020
Rice	7.48	6.25	3.84	3.89
Wheat	-7.04	-9.47	-7.34	-5.37
Atta	-0.64	-5.83	-4.14	-3.27
Gram Dal	8.53	12.76	15.22	13.00
Tur Dal	13.19	14.48	15.54	13.43
Urad Dal	5.9	5.16	7.02	6.53
Moong Dal	-1.63	-3.39	-3.13	-3.59
Masoor Dal	13.12	11.61	13.47	13.26
Groundnut Oil	18.68	19.86	20.9	19.24
Mustard Oil	31.74	40.18	42.3	39.03
Vanaspati	38.83	42.61	45.75	46.01
Soya Oil	37.31	47.36	51.02	48.07
Sunflower Oil	47.14	53.64	55.11	51.62
Palm Oil	39.7	49.67	49.54	44.42
Potato	-31.56	-27.27	-25.74	-32.66
Onion	-14.74	9.14	30.89	35.07
Tomato	-16.99	-5.86	-13.04	-45.45
Sugar	-1.55	0	-0.05	-1.69
Gur	-1.36	-3.53	-2.13	-2.4
Milk (Rs./Ltr.)	5.01	4.17	4.37	3.82
Tea (Loose)	26.44	26.21	25.41	25.69
Salt Pack (Iodised)	11.34	11.81	10.9	9.84

* Upto 27th July, 2021.

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