

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1028**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2023

**RETAIL PRICE INFLATION**

1028. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) the details of all-India daily average retail price on items including atta (wheat flour), rice, onion and potato in the country for the last five years, year wise ;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to control and ease retail prices of essential food items in the country;
- (c) whether the ongoing global conflict had an impact on the retail price inflation experienced in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of market intervention to check retail price inflation?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) : The year-wise all-India average retail prices of 22 commodities including atta (wheat flour), rice, onion and potato for the last five years are at **Annexure**.

(b) : Government takes various measures from time to time to augment domestic availability and stabilize the prices of essential food commodities. These steps, *inter-alia*, include releases from the buffer to cool down prices, imposition of stock limits, monitoring of stocks declared by entities to prevent hoarding as also requisite changes in trade policy instruments like rationalization of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on exports of the commodity etc.

In order to manage the overall food security of the country and control the increasing prices of foodgrains the Government amended the export policy of wheat from free to prohibited category on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for restricting export of Indian Durum Wheat, and from 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 the export of atta (wheat) is subjected to the recommendation of Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on export of wheat. Further, the export of broken rice has been banned and export duty of 20% imposed on non-Basmati rice except for parboiled rice w.e.f. 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. The Government has also decided to offload 30 lakh metric tons of wheat under Open Market Disposal Scheme (OMSS) and sales to State Governments, Kendriya Bhandar, National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), State Cooperatives/ Federations etc. to cool down the prices of wheat and atta.

To augment domestic availability and moderate the prices of pulses, import of tur and urad have been kept under 'Free Category' till 31.03.2024 and import duty on masur has been reduced to zero till 31.03.2024. To prevent hoarding and restrictive trade practices in respect of tur the Government has issued a directive to all the States and UTs to enforce stock disclosure by stockholders of tur under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and to also monitor and verify the stocks. Stocks of chana and moong from the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) buffer are continuously released in the market to moderate prices and also supplied to the States for welfare schemes.

In order to stabilise the volatility in prices of onion, the Government procured a record 2.51 lakh metric tonnes from Rabi-2022 crop under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) and released in major consumption centres during September, 2022 and January, 2023.

To control the prices of edible oil, the Government reduced the basic import duty on crude palm oil, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil to zero and Agri-cess on these oils has been brought down to 5%. The basic duty on refined soyabean oil and refined sunflower oil has been reduced to 17.5% from the previous rate of 32.5% and the basic duty on refined palm oils has been reduced from 17.5% to 12.5%. The Government has also kept the import of refined palm oils under 'Free' category.

(c): The ongoing Russia - Ukraine war has triggered turbulence in the global economy and led to upward pressure on retail price inflation, especially for cereals. The prices of wheat have increased as both Russia and Ukraine are major exporter of wheat worldwide. With the war situation and less availability of wheat in world market, wheat demand increased substantially, leading to increase in domestic prices of wheat and atta.

(d) : The market interventions to check retail price inflation includes disposal stocks in the market and enforcement of stock disclosure under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Onion from the PSF buffer has been released in major consumption centres during September, 2022 and January, 2023 to stabilise the volatility in prices, stocks of chana and moong from the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) buffer have been continuously released in the market and also supplied to the States for welfare schemes to moderate the prices. To prevent hoarding and restrictive trade practices in respect of tur, the Government has issued directive to all the States and UTs to enforce stock disclosure by stockholders of tur under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and to also monitor and verify the stocks. The Government has also decided to offload 30 lakh metric tons of wheat under Open Market Disposal Scheme (OMSS) and sales to State Governments, Kendriya Bhandar, National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), State Cooperatives/ Federations etc. to cool down the prices of wheat and atta.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1028 FOR 10.02.2023 REGARDING RETAIL PRICE INFLATION.**

<b>All India Yearly Retail Average Prices of 22 Essential Commodities</b>					
Rs./Kg.					
<b>Commodities</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Rice	30.05	31.68	34.25	35.98	37.03
Wheat	24.2	26.83	28.36	27.25	30.15
Atta (Wheat)	26.43	28.35	30.81	30.75	34.5
Gram Dal	66.47	66.02	68.59	75.26	73.66
Tur Dal	71.07	81.66	95.2	105.51	107.29
Urad Dal	70.83	77.29	101.8	107.92	106.57
Moong Dal	73.46	81.38	103.5	103.89	102.63
Masoor Dal	61.29	62.95	74.74	88.75	96.21
Groundnut Oil	125.79	130	147	176.28	189.24
Mustard Oil	106.16	109.85	123.34	170.67	181.98
Vanaspati	80.32	80.52	92.27	131.02	150.24
Soya Oil	89.34	92.29	102.76	147.26	158.41
Sunflower Oil	96.28	99.84	114.23	164.36	178.2
Palm Oil	76.68	76.34	92.14	128.28	134.83
Potato	19.02	18.82	31.25	21.34	25.2
Onion	23.64	32.84	35.88	32.52	28
Tomato	21.82	31.1	33.66	32.63	36.61
Sugar	38.92	38.66	39.85	40.62	41.87
Gur	43.11	44.27	47.89	47.68	49.31
Milk (Rs./Ltr)	42.31	43.76	46.52	49.11	52.81
Tea	209.19	212.52	224.66	279.82	282.48
Salt	15.22	15.4	16.27	18.09	20.25

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