

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *26

TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023

MEASURES TO REDUCE DISTRESS SALE OF TOMATOES

***26. SHRI BIKASH RANJAN BHATTACHARYYA:**

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

- (a) whether Price Stabilization Fund has fulfilled its mandate in reducing distress sale of tomatoes; and
- (b) if not, whether any remedial measures have been taken to address such distress sale?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*26 FOR 21.07.2023 REGARDING MEASURES TO REDUCE
DISTRESS SALE OF TOMATOES BY SHRI BIKASH RANJAN BHATTACHARYYA.**

(a) & (b): The mandate of the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is to check the volatility in the prices of agri-horticultural commodities in order to mitigate the hardships faced by consumers. The objectives of PSF are (i) to promote direct purchase from farmers/farmers' associations at farm gate/mandi; (ii) to maintain a strategic buffer stock to discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation; and (iii) to protect consumers by supplying such commodities at reasonable prices through calibrated release of stock. Currently, under the PSF, dynamic buffer stock of pulses (Tur, Urad, Moong, Masur and Gram) and onion are being maintained. The calibrated release of stocks from pulses and onion buffer have ensured availability and affordability of pulses and onion to the consumers and purchase for such buffer has also contributed to providing remunerative prices to farmers of these commodities.

In order to check the current increase in prices of tomato and make it available to the consumers at affordable prices, the Government has started the procurement of tomatoes under Price Stabilization Fund and is making it available at a highly subsidized rate to consumers. The National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) are continuously procuring tomato from mandis in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra and making it available at affordable prices in major consuming centres in Delhi-NCR, Bihar, Rajasthan etc. after subsidizing the price to consumers. The tomatoes have been disposed initially at retail price of Rs.90/kg which has been reduced to Rs.80/kg from 16.07.2023 and further reduced to Rs.70/kg from 20.07.2023.
