

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1033

TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

PRICE STABILISATION FUND (PSF)

1033. SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY

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

- (a) details of funds allocated and utilized under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) in last five years, year-wise, State-wise;
- (b) details of advance interest free loan provided to State Governments/Union Territories and Central agencies to support their working capital and other expenses on procurement and distribution interventions for agri-horticultural commodities in last five years, year-wise, State-wise; and
- (c) details of the steps taken Government to support market interventions for price control of perishable agri-horticultural commodities in last five years, year-wise, State-wise, district-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c): The details of year-wise budgetary support allocated under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) Scheme and the amount utilised are given at **Annexure-I**. The annual budgetary support provided under the PSF Scheme are transferred to the PSF Corpus Fund. The year-wise, Central Nodal Agency-wise and State-wise details of funds released from the PSF Corpus in the last five years as interest free advance is given at **Annexure-II**. The funds released to Central Nodal Agencies are utilised for procurement, storage and subsequent calibrated releases of agri-horticultural crops such as pulses, onion, tomato and potato in order to check price volatility and ensured availability to the consumers at affordable prices. In the last five years, the Department of Consumer Affairs maintains buffer stock of pulses, namely, Tur, Urad, Chana, Masur and Moong by procuring from the mandis and also by transferring the stocks procured under the Price Support Scheme of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The stocks had been released in the market to control prices, supplied to the States for their welfare schemes and also to the Army and Central Arm Police Forces. Pulses from the PSF

buffer had also been distributed under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and under Atma Nirbhar Bharat (ANB) during Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 to beneficiary households of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 and to stranded migrant workers.

In order to check the current increase in prices of tomato and make it available to the consumers at affordable prices, the Department of Consumer Affairs has started the procurement of tomatoes under PSF and is making it available at a highly subsidised 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 the 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.

To check the volatility in prices of onion, the Government maintains onion buffer under the PSF. The buffer size has been increased year after year from 0.57 lakh metric ton (LMT) in 2019-20 to 2.50 LMT in 2022-23. Onions from the buffer are released in major consumption centres during the lean season from September to December in a calibrated and targeted manner to cool down prices. The onion buffer target for 2023-24 has been enhanced further to 3.00 LMT.

In order to check the prices of tur, the disposal of 50,000 MT from the buffer has been undertaken in a targeted and calibrated manner to augment the availability of stocks for milling into tur dal for the consumers.

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. Chana is also supplied to the States at a discount of Rs.15/kg for welfare schemes. Further, the government introduced the mechanism to convert chana stock into chana dal for retail disposal under the brand name of “Bharat Dal” at highly subsidized rate of Rs.60/kg for 1kg pack and Rs.55/kg for 30kg pack in order to make pulses available to consumers at affordable prices by converting chana stock of the government into chana dal. Bharat Dal is being distributed through retail outlets of NAFED, NCCF, Kendriya Bhandar and Safal. The chana dal, under this arrangement, is also made available to state governments for supplies under their welfare schemes, police, jails, and also for distribution through the retail outlets of state government controlled cooperatives and corporations.

The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched in 2022, a grand challenge for development of technologies for primary processing, storage and valorization of onions with the overall objective of ensuring availability of onion to consumers at affordable prices. The 606 ideas submitted by various categories of participants had been evaluated by team of experts and 11 ideas have reached prototype development stage. Prototype development is in progress on ideas pertaining improved storage, pre-harvesting treatment, primary processing and valorisation of onion. On a similar line, Tomato Grand Challenge has also been launched 30.06.2023, to invite ideas on comprehensive and focused area interventions in tomato value chain, from cropping and market insights for the farmers to improved packaging, transportation and storage. The Tomato Grand Challenge is open to students, research scholars, faculty members, industry individuals, Indian start-ups, professionals etc.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1033 FOR 28.07.2023 REGARDING PRICE STABILISATION FUND

Year-wise details of funds allocated and utilized under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) in last five years		
Rs. in crore		
Year	Revised Estimate (RE)	Actual Utilization
2018-19	1500.00	1500.00
2019-20	1820.00	1713.00
2020-21	11800.00	11135.30
2021-22	2250.00	2030.83
2022-23	0.01	0.01

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1033 FOR 28.07.2023 REGARDING PRICE STABILISATION FUND

Funds released from PSF Corpus to Central Nodal Agencies during last five years for procurement, storage and disposal of Agri-horticulture commodities					
(Rs. in Lakh)					
Particulars	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
NAFED	3,92,807	3,27,944	9,22,629	10,33,169	4,13,954
FCI	-	15,127	5,678	-	-
MMTC	-	22,050	-	-	-
NCCF	-	-	-	-	44,257
Agency Total	3,92,807	3,65,121	9,28,307	10,33,169	4,58,211

Funds released to States for creation of State Level PSF during last five years							
(Rs. in Lakh)							
State	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	Allocation	Utilization	Allocation	Utilization			
Odisha	2,500	0	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	250	0	-	-	-
Assam	-	-	7,500	0	-	-	-
States Total	2,500	0	7,750	0	-	-	-
