

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1034 (OIH)

TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

HIKE IN TOMATO PRICE

1034. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI
(OIH)

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

- (a) the reasons for hike in tomato prices across the country;
- (b) protection provided to tomato farmers;
- (c) whether Government has taken any measures to provide relief to public from such sharp hike; and
- (d) if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d) : The recent increase in prices of tomato is attributed to a combination of factors like crop seasonality, white fly disease in Kolar (Karnataka), instantaneous arrival of monsoon rains in northern part of the country which adversely affected tomato crops in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and logistics disruptions in isolated areas due to heavy rains.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DAFW) implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to protect the growers of perishable agri-horticultural commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries implements Operation Greens sub-scheme under the umbrella scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) for enhancing value realization of produce for farmers; protecting the growers from making distress sale; increasing the food processing/preservation capacities and value addition; and reducing in post-harvest losses. An objective of the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) being implemented by the Department of Consumer Affairs is to promote direct purchase from the farmers and farmers' associations at farmgate and mandi. The ongoing procurement and retail disposal of tomato under the PSF through National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) benefits both the consumers and the farmers.

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 Stabilisation Fund and is making it available at a highly subsidised rate to consumers. NCCF and 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.

The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched on 30th June, 2023, the Tomato Grand Challenge to invite ideas for 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. The overall objective of the Grand Challenge is to ensure availability of tomato to consumers at affordable prices.
