

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1840

TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023

SKYROCKETING PRICE OF TOMATO

1840. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that price of tomato is skyrocketing that disturbs the monthly budget of each family;
- (b) the average prices of tomato in the market;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to check the supply disruption of tomato and guarantee that tomato is affordable; and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the soaring prices could push India's retail inflation towards 5.5 per cent in July-September quarter?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d) : The all-India average retail price of tomato as on 01.08.2023 was ₹132.57 per kg. The period from June to August is the lean months for tomato and when prices tend to rise. Besides, tomato is highly perishable commodity and not amenable to storage. The crop seasonality and vulnerability to damage together with excessive monsoon rains and logistics challenges make tomato highly vulnerable to price volatility.

In order to check the current increase in prices of tomato due to the crops in parts of North India being adversely affected by instantaneous rains, logistics disruptions due to heavy rains and floods in some parts 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. 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. Till 31.07.2023, a total of 710.20 MT of tomato had been procured by NCCF and NAFED with continuous disposal in major consumption centres of Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, UP and Bihar.

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