

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 234 (OIH)**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023

**PRICE HIKE OF TOMATO**

234. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN  
(OIH)

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that retail price of tomato has crossed ₹ 150/- per kg in various States of the country including Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for unprecedented rise in price of tomato in the country; and
- (c) the reasons for the failure of Government to check price rise of essential commodities including tomato and to protect the poor consumers from price rise?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c): The average daily retail prices of tomato had crossed Rs.150/- per kg in in Delhi, Punjab, Chandigarh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the week from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. As on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, the average retail price in Delhi declined to Rs.130/- per kg and to Rs.127.70/- per kg in Punjab.

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.

In order to check the rise in prices of essential commodities and protect the consumers, the Government takes various measures from time to time to augment domestic availability and stabilize the prices. 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 respect of tomato, the Government intervened by procuring tomato from mandis in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra for simultaneous disposal in major cities at subsidized prices. Till 18.07.2023 a total of 391 metric tons of tomato had been procured for continuous retail disposal in major consumption centres for the benefit of the consumers.