

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *318

TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2025

BUFFER STOCK OF PULSES

*318. SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

Will the MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is unable to buy sufficient Tur, Urad and Masoor pulses from farmers due to higher prices available in the open market as compared to the Minimum Support Price (MSP), leading to a direct impact on the buffer stock of pulses in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the present status of buffer stock of major pulses in the country;
- (c) whether Government proposes to import pulses to control the prices and maintain buffer stock, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) other measures taken/being taken by Government to control the expected rise in prices of pulses in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*318 FOR 01.04.2025 REGARDING BUFFER STOCK OF PULSES BY SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN.

(a) & (b) : The prevailing market prices of Tur, Urad and Masoor have declined in recent months to the level of Minimum Support Price (MSP) which facilitated the procurement of Tur in current Kharif marketing season (2024-25). Till 25th March, 2025, a total of 2.46 lakh tonnes (LMT) of Tur has been procured at MSP, and the procurement is still in progress. The procurement of Rabi crops of Urad and Masoor for buffer stock will start on the commencement of Rabi procurement season. The present status of stock of major pulses with the government procured under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) and Price Support Scheme (PSS) is given below:

Stock of major pulses with the Government

(in LMT)

Pulse	PSF Buffer	PSS Stock	Total Stock
Tur	0.20	2.46	2.66
Moong	1.57	5.88	7.44
Urad	0.05	0.00	0.06
Chana	0.00	0.08	0.08
Masur	5.46	0.05	5.51
Total	7.28	8.47	15.75

(c) : Currently there is no proposal to import pulses for building buffer stock under PSF. Pulses procured under PSS are transferred to PSF as per buffer requirement. To augment domestic availability of pulses and control price volatility, government has allowed import of Tur and Urad under 'Free' category till 31st March, 2026. Duty free import of Yellow Peas has also been allowed till 31st May, 2025 to further augment the overall availability of pulses.

(d) : In order to make dals available to consumers at affordable prices, part of the stock of Chana, Moong and Masoor from the buffer are converted to dals for retail sale under the Bharat brand. Bharat Chana Dal was made available at MRP of Rs.70 per kg; Bharat Moong Dal at Rs.107 per kg and Bharat Masoor Dal at Rs.89 per kg.

Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily retail and wholesale prices of selected essential food commodities, including prices of five major pulses, submitted by the 555 price monitoring centres that have been set up with Central assistance by the State Governments and UT Administrations across the country. The daily report of prices and indicative price trends are duly analysed for taking appropriate decisions such as release of stocks from the buffer, stock disclosure by stockholding entities, imposition of stock limits, changes in trade policy instruments like rationalisation of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on exports of the commodity etc. Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) reviews and deliberates, on regular basis, the situation of prices and price trends of essential agri-horticulture commodities and suggests measures to enhance availability through increased domestic production and through imports.
