

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1326
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2025

FOOD INFLATION

1326. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

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

- (a) the trend in food inflation over the past five years and the year-wise data on food inflation rates during this period;
- (b) the primary factors identified by Government contributing to the rise in food inflation, particularly in essential commodities like grains, vegetables and edible oils;
- (c) the measures taken to control food inflation and their effectiveness in stabilizing prices; and
- (d) whether there is a plan to strengthen supply chain infrastructure to address inflation sustainably?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B. L. VERMA)

(a) : Food inflation measured by year-on-year percentage variation in Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) over the past five years as published by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is given at **Annexure**.

(b) : The prices of food commodities tend to be volatile as they are affected by several factors such as seasonality in production, supply chain disruptions, rise in international prices etc. Sometimes slight disruptions in the supply chain or crop damage due to adverse weather condition etc. lead to spike in the prices of agri-horticultural commodities. Conversely, bulk arrival and logistics problems have the potential of creating a situation of glut in the market and resultant dip in prices. Further, El Nino phenomenon observed during the past two consecutive years of 2022-23 and 2023-24 created adverse weather conditions which impacted the production of food commodities, especially, vegetables and pulses. Increase in international prices are major contributor to rise in prices of edible oils.

(c) & (d) : Government keeps a close watch on the production and availability of essential commodities through regular reviews by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC). The Committee reviews, 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.

In order to tackle the volatility in prices, government maintains buffer stocks of pulses and onion for market interventions through calibrated and targeted release to moderate the prices in the market. Part of the stock of pulses from the buffer are converted to dals for retail sale to the consumers at affordable prices under the Bharat Dal brand. Similarly, atta and rice are distributed to retail consumers under Bharat brand at subsidized prices. Onion from the buffer had been released during September to December, 2024 in a calibrated and targeted manner to moderate prices in high price consuming centres at wholesale markets and through retail outlets. Onions from the buffer were distributed among retail consumers at Rs.35 per kg through stationary retail outlets and mobile vans in major consumption centres.

To strengthen food supply chain infrastructure various schemes are being implemented in areas such as storage, transportation, logistics and food processing. The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) has been launched to support the establishment of integrated cold chain facilities, pack houses, and food testing laboratories, refrigerated transport, and packaging units. Agri-Infrastructure Fund has been introduced to support the development of cold storage facilities, warehousing, and logistics systems.

These measures have helped in making essential food commodities such as pulses, rice, atta and onion available to the general consumers at affordable prices and also in stabilising the prices. The overall food inflation rate had declined to 6.02% in January, 2025 from 10.87% in October, 2024.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1326 FOR 11.03.2024 REGARDING FOOD INFLATION.

Food inflation rate measured by year-on-year percentage variation in Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI)

(n percentage)

Month	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
April	1.10	NA	1.96	8.31	3.84	8.70
May	1.83	9.20	5.01	7.97	2.96	8.69
June	2.25	8.72	5.15	7.75	4.55	9.36
July	2.36	9.27	3.96	6.69	11.51	5.42
August	2.99	9.05	3.11	7.62	9.94	5.66
September	5.11	10.68	0.68	8.60	6.62	9.24
October	7.89	11.00	0.85	7.01	6.61	10.87
November	10.01	9.50	1.87	4.67	8.70	9.04
December	14.19	3.41	4.05	4.19	9.53	8.39
January	13.63	1.96	5.43	6.00	8.30	6.02
February	10.81	3.87	5.85	5.95	8.66	
March	8.76	4.87	7.68	4.79	8.52	

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
