

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1957
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2025

HIGH FOOD INFLATION AND HOARDING

1957. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN

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

- (a) the year-on-year food inflation rate during the last five years;
- (b) whether Government has identified instances of hoarding by traders and corporations leading to price rise;
- (c) if so, the action taken against such entities; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to stabilize food prices, particularly for essential commodities like pulses, wheat and edible oils?

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) & (c) : In order to monitor the stock of pulses, the Department of Consumer Affairs advised State Governments to ensure disclosure of stocks by various entities like traders, dealers, importers, millers, stockists and big chain retailers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1995 through online stock disclosure portal. Powers to control hoarding under these Act have been delegated to States/ UTs. State/UT Governments are advised/sensitized from time to time to take appropriate action against hoarding and enforce the Act, effectively.

Department of Consumer Affairs also monitors the daily retail and wholesale prices of 38 essential food commodities, as reported by 555 price monitoring centres established with Central assistance by State Governments and UT Administrations across the country. These price reports and indicative trends are systematically analyzed to inform policy decisions, including the release of buffer stocks, mandatory stock disclosures by stockholding entities, imposition of stock limits, and modifications to trade policy instruments.

(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. The government is closely monitoring the prices of edible oils and takes necessary measures to make it affordable to the consumers.

These measures have helped in making essential food commodities available to the general consumers at affordable prices and also in stabilising the prices. The overall food inflation rate had declined to 3.75% in February, 2025 from 10.87% in October, 2024.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO. 1957 FOR 18.03.2025 REGARDING FOOD INFLATION.

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

(in 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	3.75
March	8.76	4.87	7.68	4.79	8.52	

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
