

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *173

TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2025

STORAGE OF BUFFER STOCKS OF PULSES AND ONIONS

***173. SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:
(OIH)**

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

- (a) the strategy of Government regarding maintaining of buffer stocks of pulses and onions in order to control prices ; and**
- (b) the administrative and operational reforms made in the previous years to make buffer interventions more effective for price management**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*173 FOR 05.08.2025 REGARDING STORAGE OF BUFFER STOCKS OF PULSES AND ONIONS ASKED BY SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA.

(a) : Government maintains dynamic buffer stocks of pulses, viz., Chana, Tur, Urad, Moong and Masur and onion under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) scheme. The primary objective of the buffer stocks is to protect the consumers from extreme volatility in prices of these food commodities by making them available at affordable prices. Buffer stocks of pulses are built either by transferring pulses procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP) under Price Support Scheme (PSS) of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to the PSF buffer; or by procuring directly under PSF. When prevailing market prices are above MSP, pulses for the buffer are procured directly under PSF at Minimum Assured Procurement Price (MAPP); or Dynamic Buffer Procurement Price (DBPP), whichever is higher. MAPP is weighted average of the modal and maximum prices prevailing across all mandis in the State during three trading days prior to the procurement date and DBPP is the weighted average of modal and maximum prices across all mandis in the State three days prior and three days after the procurement date, including the procurement date. Buffer stock of onion is maintained by procuring stocks from Rabi crop and stored for disposal during lean months, normally, from September to November. The buffer stock of pulses and onion are released in a calibrated and targeted manner to discourage hoarding and unscrupulous trading and also to make the commodities available to consumers at affordable prices.

(b) : In order to make buffer interventions more effective in controlling retail prices, Government introduced retail sale of pulses under Bharat Dal brand by converting pulses from the buffer into dals. Bharat Dal mechanism was in operation during 2023-24 and 2024-25 when the prices of pulses were on upward trend due to lower domestic production. By making dals available at affordable prices to common consumers through various channels like Safal, Kendriya Bhandar, e-commerce platforms and mobile vans across the country, the Bharat Dal mechanism had helped in containing price rise by nudging the market players to moderate the prices.

Similarly, in the disposal of onion from the buffer, emphasis had been given to retail sale over wholesale disposal. Retail sale of onions through various channels like Safal, e-commerce platforms and mobile vans had helped in making onions available to consumers at affordable prices and also in containing the overall prices rise. For the first time PSF onion operation, railway wagons were used in 2024-25 for transporting onions from Nashik to major consumption centres. A total of 14 rail rakes were used to transport almost 12,000 MT of onions to Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow and Guwahati. Bulk transportation of onions by rail proved to be faster, more cost-effective and impactful on prices in the destination markets.
