

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1814
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2025**

PRICE MONITORING AND INFLATION CONTROL

1814. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB

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

- (a) the active measures taken by the Ministry to monitor price gouging and speculative trading, in view of recent fluctuations in the prices of essential commodities and how effective the existing mechanisms are in ensuring price stability and affordability for the common consumer; and
- (b) the manner in which the Ministry is collaborating with State Governments to ensure the proper implementation of the Essential Commodities Act and prevent hoarding and artificial scarcity, especially during times of supply chain disruptions or natural calamities?

ANSWER

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

(a) : Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution monitors the daily prices of 38 essential food commodities submitted by the 566 price monitoring centres 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. 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 were converted to dals for retail sale to the consumers at affordable prices under the Bharat Dal brand during 2023-24 and 2024-25. 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 were distributed among retail consumers at Rs.35 per kg through stationary retail outlets and mobile vans in major consumption centres. These measures have helped in making essential food commodities available to the general consumers at affordable prices and helped in bring down the year-on-year food inflation rate to (-) 1.06% in June, 2025.

(b) : The Ministry regularly coordinates with State Governments to ensure effective implementation of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. States are empowered to take action against hoarding and black marketing under this Act. During times of supply chain disruptions or natural calamities, advisories are issued to State Governments to monitor stocks, enforce stock disclosure norms, and take appropriate action under the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The Ministry also reviews the availability and price situation in coordination with States to take preventive and corrective actions, including imposing stock limits on selected commodities to prevent artificial scarcity and to protect consumer interests.
