

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2605
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2025

RIISING PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN ODISHA

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of rising prices of essential commodities in Odisha;
- (b) if so, the average inflation trend in rural and urban Odisha in the last year;
- (c) the measures taken to curb price rise in local mandis and weekly markets;
- (d) whether state-specific buffer stock mechanisms have been created; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) : Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily prices of 38 essential food commodities submitted by 566 price monitoring centres across the country, including 28 centres in Odisha. As per the data, prices of essential food commodities are stable and under control.
- (b) : As per the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the year-on-year inflation rates for rural and urban Odisha for June, 2025 are 0.46% and 0.64%, respectively, which are lower than the all-India rural and urban inflation rates of 1.72% and 2.56%, respectively.
- (c) : Government keeps a close watch on the availability and prices 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 under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) 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, which is the lowest after January 2019.

(d) & (e) : Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) scheme was set up in 2014-15 with the basic objective of protecting the consumers from extreme volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities and to make essential food commodities available at affordable prices. The PSF scheme has a component for providing funds to State Governments for setting up State-level Price Stabilisation Fund on a 50:50 sharing basis between the Central and States (75:25 for North Eastern States). The proposal of Government of Odisha for setting up Rs.100 crore State-level PSF to undertake interventions in pulses, onion and potato was sanctioned in 2018-19 and Rs.25 crore was released to the State as first instalment of Central share in the fund.
