

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 998
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2025

RISING PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

998. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note on sky rocketing prices of essential food and domestic commodities in the last one year;
- (b) if so, the effective steps taken by Government to mitigate the price rise crisis and its impact on the common people; and
- (c) whether Government has allocated any additional food grains and essential commodities to States/UTs and if so, the appropriate steps taken by Government to mitigate the issues and problems faced by the Middle Class people due to the steep rise in prices of essential commodities?

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 the 566 price monitoring centres across the country. As per the data, prices of essential food commodities are stable and under control.

(b) : 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. The government restricts the export of sugar to ensure domestic availability and is closely monitoring the prices of edible oils and take necessary measures to make these commodities affordable to the consumers.

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.

(c) : In order to ensure accessibility and availability of foodgrains for vulnerable section of the society, the Government decided to provide free foodgrains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for a period of next five years with effect from 1st January, 2024, as per their entitlement (i.e. 35 kg of foodgrains per month per AAY household and 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month in case of Priority Household).
