

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1802
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2025

RETAIL AND FOOD INFLATION

1802. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the retail and food inflation in the country rose to a very high percent, if so, the remedial steps taken by Government to reduce the same;
- (b) whether Government has allocated adequate funds from Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like Pulses, Onion, Fruits, Vegetables and Potato;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated from PSF in the last five years, yearwise; and
- (d) the details of measures taken by Government to address the steep rise in food prices during the last five years?

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 575 price monitoring centres across the country. As per the data, prices of food commodities are stable and under control. Similarly, the retail and food inflation rates measured by year-on-year variation in Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) in the country, as published by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, for October, 2025 are 0.25% and (-) 5.02%, respectively. The retail and food inflation rates for October, 2025 are lowest year-on-year inflation rates of the current CPI series.

(b) & (c) : Funds for moderating the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) are being made available through annual budgetary support and accrual of sale proceeds to the Corpus fund. Adequate funds are made available by Government. Details of funds available for price stabilization interventions under PSF in past five years are given below:

Availability of Funds under Price Stabilisation Fund from 2021-22 to 2025-26

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount of Annual Budgetary Support	Amount of Sale Proceeds	Total Funds Available
2021-22	2,030.83	3,939.18	5,970.01
2022-23	0.01	4,786.30	4,786.31
2023-24	0.00	5,966.85	5,966.85
2024-25	6,970.94	7,730.66	14,701.60
2025-26	4,019.83*	3,489.74**	7,509.57

* Allocation under PSF in 2025-26 (BE);

** Sale Proceeds for 2025-26 is up to 09.12.2025.

The requirement for funds fluctuates from year to year depending upon the stock held in the buffer, the market condition warranting interventions and the quantum of sale proceeds accruing to the Corpus. For example, during 2023-24 and 2024-25, large quantity of pulses was disposed through Bharat Dal mechanism which reduced the balance stock in the pulses buffer. To rebuild the buffer stock, higher budgetary support was provided in 2024-25, in addition to the higher sale proceeds accruing to Corpus on account of the disposal. During 2024-25 to 2025-26 (till day), a total of 14.60 lakh tonnes of pulses have been procured for rebuilding the buffer. The requirement of funds for 2025-26 is comparatively lower than last year due to favourable domestic production and moderation in prices of pulses.

(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 scenario and the indicative trends in prices of essential agri-horticultural commodities and suggests measures to enhance availability through increased domestic production and rationalisation in export-import policies.

In order to tackle the volatility in prices, government maintains dynamic 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. Onions from the buffer are released during the lean months of September to December in a calibrated and targeted manner to moderate prices. In current year (2025-26), the disposal of onions through retail sale to consumers at discounted prices commenced from 4th September, 2025 which was followed by open market sale in major consumer centres across the country.

These measures have helped in making essential food commodities available to the general consumers at affordable prices and helped in bring down the food inflation rate to (-) 5.02% in October, 2025, which is lowest food inflation of the current CPI series.
