

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1035
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2026/ *Shravana* 6, 1948 (*Saka*)**

Inflation and household distress

1035. Smt. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of food inflation on household consumption;
- (b) the details of decline in per capita consumption, if any; and
- (c) the corrective measures proposed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (c): In 2025-26, there was no inflation in the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) as it recorded (-) 0.3 per cent inflation. CFPI increased to 4.8 per cent in the first quarter of the current year, mainly on account of higher prices of protein-rich foods and select vegetables. The Government continuously monitors the prices of essential commodities and undertakes fiscal, administrative and supply-side measures to contain inflation, particularly to protect low- and middle-income households. Daily price monitoring is complemented by regular reviews by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), which recommends measures, including import-export policy interventions, to improve domestic availability. Some of the recent measures include, market release of pulses and onions from the buffer stocks that are maintained under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) to nudge prices lower; extension of duty rationalization for the import of Tur and Urad under the 'Free Category' till 31.03.2027; reduction of Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on crude palm oil, crude soybean oil and crude sunflower oil from 20 per cent to 10 per cent in June 2025; on whole Tur to Nil with effect from 4 March 2023; and reduction of Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on Masur to Nil from 13 February 2022 to 7 March 2025;

(b): There has been no decline in per capita consumption. According to the latest GDP estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the per capita Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) recorded a robust growth of 6.8 per cent in 2025–26, up from 4.8 per cent in 2023–24.
