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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1795
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2026

RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS

1795. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:

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

(a) whether Government has taken note of the persistent rise in retail prices of essential food items, including pulses, edible oils, vegetables, cereals and milk during the last two years;
(b) the commodity-wise and State/UT-wise details thereof;
(c) the measures taken to control food inflation, including market intervention and price stabilization initiatives;
(d) the details of buffer stocks maintained and quantities released into the open market; and
(e) the action taken against hoarding, black marketing and profiteering, including inspections, cases registered and penalties imposed, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) : Government monitors the daily prices of 41 food commodities submitted by the 579 price monitoring centres across the country. Retail prices of essential commodities like pulses, potato, onion, tomato, rice, wheat, atta (wheat) and milk have remained either stable or declined over the last two years. Retail prices of edible oils recorded increase over last two years because of India's dependence on imports which makes prices sensitive to global market trends (details are given at **Annexure**).

(b) : The commodity-wise and State/UT-wise details of essential food items whose daily prices are monitored by Department of Consumer are available at Department's website which can be accessed through the link: https://fcainfoweb.nic.in/reports/report_menu_web.aspx.

(c) & (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.

Government maintains buffer stock of pulses and onion under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) to tackle extreme price volatility and to ensure availability of these essential food commodities to consumers at affordable prices. At present, government holds 42.40 lakh tonnes of pulses which includes 14.79 lakh tonnes are held under the PSF buffer and 27.61 lakh tonnes under the Price Support Scheme (PSS).

Pulses from the buffer are released in a regulated manner to augment the availability and cool down the market prices. Market interventions through buffer stock also help in nudging the market players lower their prices. Buffer stock of pulses also acts as deterrent against manipulative hoarding and unscrupulous speculations by market players. During 2025-26, a total of 4.04 lakh tonnes of pulses were released from the PSF buffer through open market sale. In addition, pulses were also supplied to States/UTs for their welfare schemes on continuous basis, as per demand and availability. In case of onion, a total of 2.87 lakh tonnes of Rabi-2025 harvest were procured during 2025-26. The buffer stock of onion plays critical role in controlling the seasonal fluctuation in prices during the period between Rabi and Kharif onion harvests when prices tend to rise due to the depletion in stored Rabi onions. Onions from the government buffer are released during this lean season in regulated and targeted manner through retail and bulk sales to augment the market availability and stabilise the prices.

(e) : Action taken by State Governments and UT Administrations against hoarders and black-marketeers are being continuously monitored through the online ATR portal, i.e. https://fcainfoweb.nic.in/ecre. The actions taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, during the last two years of 2024 and 2025 are as below:

Year	No. of Raids conducted	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons Convicted	No. of detention	Value of Goods Confiscated (Rs.crore)
2024	1,24,922	21,041	10,186	1,264	139	2,425.58
2025	1,04,006	17,485	8,595	1,523	113	123.35

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<u>ANNEXURE</u>

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1795 FOR 04.08.2026 REGARDING RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS asked by SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI.

Retail prices of Cereals, Pulses, Edible oils, Vegetables and Milk during the last two years

Commodity	**Unit**	**Price as on today (29-07-2026)** (in Rupees)	**Price 2 years ago (29-07-2024)** (in Rupees)	**Percentage variation** (in %)
Rice	1 Kg	44.90	43.75	2.63%
Wheat	1 Kg	31.37	31.06	1.00%
Atta (Wheat)	1 Kg	37.25	35.80	4.05%
Gram Dal	1 Kg	86.31	88.64	-2.63%
Tur/Arhar Dal	1 Kg	123.37	167.63	-26.40%
Urad Dal	1 Kg	121.29	126.49	-4.11%
Moong Dal	1 Kg	111.77	117.48	-4.86%
Masoor Dal	1 Kg	90.35	91.85	-1.63%
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	1 Kg	206.00	186.84	10.25%
Mustard Oil (Packed)	1 Kg	196.67	140.78	39.70%
Vanaspati (Packed)	1 Kg	165.57	124.76	32.71%
Soya Oil (Packed)	1 Kg	164.25	121.78	34.87%
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	1 Kg	189.37	121.29	56.13%
Palm Oil (Packed)	1 Kg	148.25	99.31	49.28%
Potato	1 Kg	22.72	37.78	-39.86%
Onion	1 Kg	35.07	43.80	-19.93%
Tomato	1 Kg	39.39	64.77	-39.18%
Milk	1 Ltr	60.87	59.21	2.80%

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