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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 211
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2026

RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

211. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA

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

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of rise in prices of several essential commodities, including food items;
(b) if so, whether the Ministry has taken or is considering any step, to curb price rise of essential commodities; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily prices of 41 essential food commodities submitted by the 579 price monitoring centres across the country. The prices of food commodities tend to be volatile as they are affected by several factors such as seasonality in production, supply chain disruptions, rise in international prices etc. Prices of edible oils like sunflower oils and mustard oil recorded increasing trend on year-on-year basis while prices of pulses, foodgrains and vegetables are stable.

Government keeps a close watch on the production and availability of essential commodities, including pulses, rice, wheat and edible oils, 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 volatility in the prices and in ensuring the availability of these essential food commodities to consumers at affordable prices. Fluctuations in domestic production, seasonal variations in demand and speculative activities of market players often leads to volatility in the prices of pulses. Regulated release of pulses from the buffer to augment the availability helps in cooling down the market prices, and retail sale to consumers at discounted prices ensures availability of dals at affordable prices. Market interventions through buffer stock also helps in nudging the market players lower their prices. Further, buffer stock of pulses with the government acts as deterrent against manipulative hoarding and unscrupulous speculations by market players. In case of onion, the buffer stock plays critical role in controlling the seasonal fluctuation in prices. The period between Rabi and Kharif onion harvests is associated with rise in prices due to the depletion in stored Rabi onions. Onions from the government buffer are released during this lean season in regulated and targeted manner to augment the market availability and stabilise the prices.

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