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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 220
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2026

RISE IN PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS OWING TO GLOBAL CONFLICTS

220. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB

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

(a) whether Government has taken note of the sharp increase in prices of essential commodities and consumer goods in the domestic market following recent international conflicts and disruptions in global supply chains;

(b) whether instances of hoarding, speculative trading and artificial shortages have contributed to the rise in prices;

(c) the steps taken by Government to control inflation, prevent hoarding and ensure adequate market supplies; and

(d) whether Government proposes any special measures to protect consumers, particularly low- and middle-income households, from the burden of rising prices?

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. The prices of essential food commodities like cereals and pulses are stable despite the recent West Asia conflict and disruptions in global supply chains. Empowered Group on Prices and Supply of Essential Commodities comprising Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying is one of the seven empowered groups constituted by Government to monitor and assess the impact of the West Asia situation and take necessary remedial measures. The Group monitors the availability and prices of essential commodities and deliberates the remedial measures to be taken by the Ministry/ Department concerned in order to address the issues.

(b) to (d) : To prevent hoarding, speculative and artificial shortages the Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the stock of pulses with entities like traders, millers, importers and organised retail chains for voluntary disclosure through the Stock Disclosure Portal, https://fcainfoweb.nic.in/psp. The enforcement of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 by State Governments and UT Administration are monitored through online Action Taken Report (ATR) portal, https://fcainfoweb.nic.in/ECRE/. The action taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during the years 2024, 2025 and 2026 (up to 14.07.2026) is as follows:

Year	No. of Raids	No. of Persons Arrested	No. of Persons Prosecuted	No. of persons Convicted	No. of persons Detention	Value of Goods Confiscated (in 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
2026 (as on 14.07.2026)	64,426	8,203	3,761	436	50	41.85

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 by 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. 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. 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.

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 addition, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) being implemented in all the States/UTs aims to supplement the food requirements of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. While Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains, per household per month, Priority Households (PHH) are entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month free of cost. The Coverage under the scheme is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

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