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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 221
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2026

MEASURES TO CONTROL PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

221. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR

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

(a) whether measures have been taken to control prices of essential commodities;
(b) the details thereof;
(c) whether inflation in food items has affected consumers; and
(d) the steps taken to stabilise prices?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) : Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily prices of 41 essential food commodities submitted by the 579 price monitoring centres across the country. The daily report of prices and indicative trends are duly analysed for taking appropriate decisions such as release of stocks from the buffer, targeted retail interventions, stock disclosure by stockholding entities, imposition of stock limits, changes in trade policy instruments like rationalisation of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on export of the commodity etc.

Prices of essential food items like cereals and pulses are largely stable. As per the data published by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, year-on-year inflation rate for food items measured by Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for the month of June, 2026 was 5.32% (Provisional).

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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