

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4236
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2017

SALE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

4236. SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to utilize the vast network of post offices across the country to sell subsidised pulses, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has also reviewed the availability and prices of essential commodities and decided to release more essential commodities from buffer stock to ensure their availability through retail distribution at reasonable prices during the season, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the prices of pulses, sugar and other essential commodities, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures undertaken by the Government to protect the consumers from high prices along with the details of prices of pulses, sugar and other essential commodities during the last three years?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : Distribution of pulses through branches of Post Offices in the country is one of the options available to the Government to improve outreach and coverage for market intervention.

(b) : The Government is monitoring the prices and availability of essential commodities. During 2016-17, Government of India has so far allocated 628.91 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under National Food Security Act (NFSA), other welfare schemes and additional allocation including festival, calamity etc. Besides, FCI through Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) has sold 45.67 lakh tonnes of wheat out of Central Pool to enhance the supply and moderate the open market prices.

In addition, allocation of around 54,160 tonnes pulses were made to States/UTs/agencies from the buffer stock of pulses for direct retailing by them. Also, 46088 tonnes of pulses were auctioned in open market.

(c)& (d) : The Government is closely monitoring the prices of essential commodities including pulses and sugar. The details of prices of some of the commodities over last three years are given at **Annexure**.

The measures taken by Government from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items inter-alia, include creation of buffer stock of pulses for effective market intervention; appropriately utilizing trade and fiscal policy instruments like import and export duty, Minimum Export Price, export restrictions etc. to regulate domestic availability and moderate prices; imposition of stock limits, provision of higher Minimum Support Prices to incentivize farmers for increasing production etc.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) & (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4236 FOR 28.03.2017 REGARDING SALE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

Commodities	All India Daily Average Retail Price (₹/kg)						
	Price As On	1 Year Ago	2 years Ago	3 Years Ago	% Variation over		
	23/03/2017	23/03/2016	23/03/2015	21/03/2014	1 Year	2 years	3 Years
Rice	29.05	28.57	27.64	27.24	1.68	5.1	6.64
Wheat	24.42	26.28	23	21.76	-7.08	6.17	12.22
Gram Dal	88.4	66.23	49.81	48.6	33.47	77.47	81.89
Tur/Arhar Dal	88.69	134.98	82.74	70.23	-34.29	7.19	26.29
Urad Dal	98.43	141.26	80.83	66.09	-30.32	21.77	48.93
Moong Dal	79.32	101.37	100.28	85.38	-21.75	-20.9	-7.1
Masoor Dal	74.82	79.31	73	60.28	-5.66	2.49	24.12
Sugar	42.46	34.72	32.71	34.68	22.29	29.81	22.43
Milk	40.9	38.87	38.49	35.54	5.22	6.26	15.08
Groundnut Oil	133.63	120.96	116.61	120.97	10.47	14.6	10.47
Mustard Oil	110.12	113.93	100.1	97.98	-3.34	10.01	12.39
Vanaspati	77.93	72.63	76.02	77.33	7.3	2.51	0.78
Soya Oil	86.31	79.94	84.53	85.67	7.97	2.11	0.75
Sunflower Oil	93.89	93.86	93.78	96.91	0.03	0.12	-3.12
Palm Oil	70.35	64.91	68.05	72.72	8.38	3.38	-3.26
Potato	13.47	17.52	15.64	15.86	-23.12	-13.87	-15.07
Onion	14.66	16.87	23.66	17.4	-13.1	-38.04	-15.75
Tomato	16.98	16.11	20.37	15.29	5.4	-16.64	11.05

Source: State Civil Supplies Department
