

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3358
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2018**

RISE IN PRICES OF FOOD PRODUCTS

3358. SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA:
(OIH)

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

- (a) whether the consumer selling price of the food products is sure to go up with the recent decision of the Government to increase the minimum support price for 14 foodgrains products of kharif crops in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to provide relief to the common people from price rise; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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) to (d) : The prices of food products are influenced by various factors which inter alia include demand supply mismatch owing to shortfall in production because of adverse weather condition and seasonality, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities and artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing as well as minimum support prices of the food products.

Government has taken various measures from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items which, inter-alia, include 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 and advising States for effective action against hoarders & black marketers; and, provision of higher Minimum Support Prices to incentivize farmers for increasing production. Government is also implementing Schemes which, *inter alia*, include Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), etc. for increasing agricultural production and productivity through appropriate interventions. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion and potato.