

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 81**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2018**

**INCREASE IN PRICE OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS**

81. SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER:

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

- (a) whether the prices of essential food items have drastically increased during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**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) & (b) : The all India yearly average retail prices of most of the 22 essential food items monitored by Department of Consumer Affairs have declined or remained relatively stable over three years including the year 2018 so far. Prices of food items like pulses (gram, tur, urad, moong, masoor) and edible oils like mustard and groundnut (packed) have declined over three years. However, food items like rice, atta, vanaspati oil, soya oil and palm oil (packed), onion and milk have shown some marginal increase. Details are at **Annexure**.

Increase in prices of food items is mainly on account of 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.

(c) : 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 agricultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato.

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**ANNEXURE****ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.81 FOR 11.12.2018 REGARDING INCREASE IN PRICE OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS.****ALL INDIA YEARLY AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF 22 ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS MONITORED BY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS***(Unit: in Rs/kg)*

<b>Year</b> <b>Commodities</b>	<b>2016</b> (1.1.2016 to 31.12.2016)	<b>2017</b> (1.1.2017 to 31.12.2017)	<b>2018</b> (1.1.2018 to 04.12.2018)
<b>Rice</b>	27.32	29.23	30.05
<b>Wheat</b>	23.57	23.90	24.13
<b>Atta (wheat)</b>	25.16	26.24	26.36
<b>Gram Dal</b>	90.78	87.28	66.50
<b>Tur Dal</b>	131.72	84.02	71.01
<b>Urad Dal</b>	136.95	92.35	70.80
<b>Moong Dal</b>	94.55	77.57	73.33
<b>Masoor Dal</b>	82.75	70.32	61.28
<b>Groundnut Oil (Packed)</b>	130.99	131.00	125.69
<b>Mustard Oil (Packed)</b>	109.47	106.98	105.99
<b>Vanaspati Oil(Packed)</b>	74.4	77.71	80.29
<b>Soya Oil(Packed)</b>	82.61	85.21	89.23
<b>Sunflower Oil(Packed)</b>	95.11	93.10	96.16
<b>Palm Oil(Packed)</b>	68.58	70.37	76.74
<b>Potato</b>	19.28	14.94	19.01
<b>Onion</b>	16.79	22.41	23.97
<b>Tomato</b>	26.01	32.32	21.83
<b>Sugar</b>	38.62	42.63	38.97
<b>Gur</b>	42.02	44.72	43.16
<b>Milk@ ₹ per ltr.</b>	39.96	41.58	42.29
<b>Tea Loose</b>	199.02	202.76	209.15
<b>Salt</b>	14.98	15.11	15.21

*Source: - State Civil Supplies Deptt.*