

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *15

TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2022

INCREASE IN PRICES OF COMMODITIES

*15. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:

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 commodities including foodgrains, pulses, tomato and edible oils, particularly mustard oil have increased sharply resulting in consumer inflation in recent months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to control inflation along with the advisories issued to States to check the stock limit of these items by the traders beyond certain capacity?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री
(श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*15 FOR 07.12.2022 REGARDING INCREASE IN PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

(a) & (b) : The price trends in respect of foodgrains namely rice and wheat; pulses namely tur dal, urad dal, moong dal, gram dal and masur dal; edible oils namely groundnut oil, mustard oil, vanaspati, soya oil, sunflower oil and palm oil; and vegetables namely potato, tomato and onion in the past three months and the month-on-month percentage variations in the prices are given at **Annexure**. The all-India average retail prices of the aforementioned commodities have not exhibited any sharp and consistent increase in recent months. The Consumer Food Price Inflation (CFPI) has declined from 8.60 % in September, 2022 to 7.01 % in October, 2022.

(c) : Government takes various measures from time to time to augment domestic availability and stabilize the prices of essential food commodities. These steps, *inter-alia*, include releases from the buffer to cool down prices, imposition of stock limits, monitoring of stocks declared by entities to prevent hoarding as also requisite changes in trade policy instruments like rationalization of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on exports of the commodity etc.

In order to manage the overall food security of the country and moderate prices of foodgrains the Government amended the export policy of wheat from free to prohibited category on 13th May 2022 for restricting export of Indian Durum Wheat, and from 12th July, 2022 the export of atta (wheat) is subjected to the recommendation of Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on export of wheat. Further, the export of broken rice has been banned and export duty of 20% imposed on non-Basmati rice except for parboiled rice w.e.f. 9th September, 2022.

To augment domestic availability and moderate the prices of pulses, import of tur and urad have been kept under 'Free Category' till 31.03.2023 and basic import duty on masur has been reduced to zero w.e.f. 27.07.2021, and the Agri-cess on masur import reduced to zero from 13.02.2022 till 31.03.2023. To prevent hoarding and restrictive trade practices in respect of tur the Government on 12th August, 2022 issued a directive to all the States and UTs to enforce stock disclosure by stockholders of tur under Section 3(2)(h) and 3(2)(i) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and to also monitor and verify the stocks.

In order to stabilise the prices of onion, the Government procured a record 2.51 lakh metric tonnes of onion for the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) buffer stock in current year (2022-23). Targeted disposal of the stocks to major consumption centres to moderate the prices has commenced from September, 2022. Apart from market disposal, States and Government/cooperative retail agencies have been offered onion at a discounted rate of Rs.8/- kg for making available to the retail consumers. A total of 1.53 lakh MT of onion from the buffer has been released till 30.11.2022.

To control the prices of edible oil, the Government reduced the basic duty on crude palm oil, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil from 2.5% to Nil, and Agri-cess on these oils has been brought down to 5%. The basic duty on refined soyabean oil and refined sunflower oil has been reduced to 17.5% from the previous rate of 32.5% and the basic duty on refined palm oils has been reduced from 17.5% to 12.5%. The Government has also extended the free import of refined palm oils for a period upto 31.12.2022. In addition to these, the Government has imposed stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds for a period up to 31st December 2022. Thereafter, the Government exempted the big chain retails and wholesalers of edible oil companies from the stock limit order with effect from 2nd November 2022 in order to make the supply chain seamless amid easing global edible oil prices. The Government has also issued Notification for allocation of Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for import of 20 LMT of Crude Soyabean Oil and 20 LMT of Crude Sunflower Oil for the financial year 2022-23 and 2023-24 at zero import duty and zero Agri-cess.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*15 FOR 07.12.2022 REGARDING INCREASE IN PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

Daily all-India average retail prices of foodgrains, pulses, edible oils and vegetables (Rs./kg.) as on 06.12.2022.

Sl No.	Item	Price as on 06.12.22	1 Month back as on 06.11.22	2 months ago as on 06.10.22	3 months ago as on 06.09.22	% Variation over		
						1 month back	2 months back	3 months back
1	Rice	38.02	37.76	38.12	38.02	0.69	-0.26	0
2	Wheat	31.92	30.46	30.93	31.16	4.79	3.2	2.44
3	Gram Dal	73.75	70.86	73.46	74.17	4.08	0.39	-0.57
4	Tur/Arhar Dal	112.82	110.92	111.95	111.61	1.71	0.78	1.08
5	Urad Dal	108.8	106.46	109.21	109.15	2.2	-0.38	-0.32
6	Moong Dal	104.18	101.27	103.23	103.1	2.87	0.92	1.05
7	Masoor Dal	95.5	93.76	95.91	98.12	1.86	-0.43	-2.67
8	Groundnut Oil	189.73	188.13	188.71	189.03	0.85	0.54	0.37
9	Mustard Oil	170.12	169.28	167.93	172.02	0.5	1.3	-1.1
10	Vanaspati	143.69	141.01	148.3	152.94	1.9	-3.11	-6.05
11	Soya Oil	154.4	152.68	149.45	155.39	1.13	3.31	-0.64
12	Sunflower Oil	169.29	167.56	167.05	175.91	1.03	1.34	-3.76
13	Palm Oil	116.38	116.95	119.1	131.23	-0.49	-2.28	-11.32
14	Potato	27.2	28.31	28.01	28.81	-3.92	-2.89	-5.59
15	Onion	29.18	30.23	26	26.02	-3.47	12.23	12.14
16	Tomato	33.23	40.88	44.77	38.11	-18.71	-25.78	-12.81

Source: State Food and Civil Supplies department.
