

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1337
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2022

RETAIL PRICE INFLATION

1337. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) the details of the all-India daily average retail price on items including atta (wheat flour), rice, onion and potato in the country for the last three months between August 2022 and November 2022;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the price of atta has become almost equal to that of rice;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to control and ease retail prices of essential food items in the country;
- (d) whether the ongoing global conflict had an impact on the retail price inflation experienced in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details of market intervention to check retail price inflation?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (e) : The all-India monthly average retail prices of 22 essential food commodities including atta (wheat flour), rice, onion and potato from September, 2022 to November, 2022 are at **Annexure-I**.

Prices of agri-horticultural commodities are volatile and tend to get affected by several factors, such as mismatch in demand and supply, seasonality, supply chain constraints, artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing, rise in international prices, geopolitical tensions etc. Sometimes slight disruptions in supply chain or damage due to heavy rains leads to spike in prices of agri-horticultural commodities. Conversely, bulk arrival and logistics problems have the potential of creating a situation of glut in the market and resultant dip in retail prices.

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.

Stock of pulses and onion are maintained under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) buffer for market intervention to regulate price volatility and discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation. In current year (2022-23), the Government procured a record 2.51 lakh metric tonnes of onion for the PSF buffer and targeted disposal of the stocks to major consumption centres to moderate the prices has commenced from September, 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 lakh MT of Crude Soyabean Oil and 20 lakh MT of Crude Sunflower Oil for the financial year 2022-23 and 2023-24 at zero import duty and zero agri-cess.

During 2022-23, till date, a total of 2.85 lakh MT of pulses and 1.68 lakh MT of onion from the PSF buffer has been released in the open market. Apart from market disposal, States/UTs have been supplied pulses for welfare schemes. Further, onion from the PDS has been offered at a discounted price of Rs.8/- kg ex-storage location to States/UTs and Government/cooperative retail agencies for supplies to the consumers through retail outlets.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1337 FOR 14.12.2022 REGARDING RETAIL PRICE INFLATION**All-India Monthly Average Retail Prices of 22 Essential Food Commodities**

Rs./Kg.

S.No.	Commodities	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22
1	Rice	38.07	38.10	37.97
2	Wheat	30.84	30.83	31.38
3	Atta (Wheat)	35.91	36.06	36.64
4	Gram Dal	73.41	73.21	73.57
5	Tur Dal	111.32	111.73	112.74
6	Urad Dal	108.19	108.50	108.66
7	Moong Dal	102.75	103.28	103.69
8	Masoor Dal	96.55	95.59	95.76
9	Groundnut Oil	191.30	191.58	192.14
10	Mustard Oil	177.55	174.48	176.38
11	Vanaspati Oil	150.24	146.34	145.14
12	Soya Oil	155.34	152.70	156.64
13	Sunflower Oil	178.76	175.70	177.65
14	Palm Oil	129.96	123.28	122.54
15	Potato	27.85	28.47	28.82
16	Onion	25.83	27.80	30.90
17	Tomato	41.21	46.25	38.39
18	Sugar	42.44	42.51	42.61
19	Gur	50.66	50.98	51.11
20	Milk (Rs./Ltr.)	53.60	54.42	55.00
21	Tea	281.19	282.05	280.21
22	Salt	20.82	21.36	21.53
