

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *472 (OIH)

TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2023

INCREASE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS

***472. SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA: SHRI RAJVEER DILER:
(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 prices of essential food items have increased during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, food item-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the role of hoarders/black-marketeers behind the increase in the price of essential food items has come to the notice of the Government during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government to stabilise/reduce the prices of essential food items to protect the interests of the common people?

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 (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*472 FOR 05.04.2023 REGARDING INCREASE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS.

(a) & (b) : The Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily prices of 22 essential food commodities. The all-India average retail prices of the 22 food commodities for the last three years are placed at **Annexure**. Prices of food commodities tend to be volatile as they are 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 etc. Sometimes slight disruptions in supply chain or damage due to heavy rains lead to spike in prices of agri-horticultural commodities.

(c) & (d) : The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, are enforced to deal with regulation of the production, supply and distribution of essential commodities and malpractices like black marketing, hoarding and profiteering. To prevent hoarding and restrictive trade practices in respect of tur and urad, the Government has issued a directive to all the States and UTs to enforce stock disclosure by stockholders of under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and to also closely monitor and verify the stocks.

(e) : In order to manage the overall food security of the country and control the increasing 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 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% is imposed on non-Basmati rice except for parboiled rice w.e.f. 9th September, 2022. The Government has also decided to offload 50 lakh metric tons of wheat under Open Market Disposal Scheme (OMSS) and sales to State Governments, Kendriya Bhandar, National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), State Cooperatives/ Federations etc. to cool down the prices of wheat and atta.

Further, to augment domestic availability and moderate the prices of pulses, import of tur and urad have been kept under 'Free Category' till 31.03.2024 and import duty on masur has been reduced to zero till 31.03.2024. The import duty on tur has also been removed to facilitate smooth and seamless import. Stocks of chana and moong from the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) buffer are continuously released in the market to moderate the prices. Chana from PSS and PSF are also being supplied to the States for welfare schemes at Rs.15/kg discount over the issue price.

Also, in order to stabilise the volatility in prices of onion, the Government procured a record 2.51 lakh metric tonnes of onions from Rabi-2022 crop under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) and released it in major consumption centres during September, 2022 and January, 2023. For current year (FY 2023-24), the procurement of Rabi-2023 onion has been increased to 3.00 lakh metric tonnes.

To control the prices of edible oil, the Government reduced the basic import duty on crude palm oil, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil to zero 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 kept the import of refined palm oils under 'Free' category.

ANNEXURE STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*472 FOR 05.04.2023 REGARDING INCREASE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS.
-----**All India Retail Average Prices of 22 Essential Food Items.**

(in Rs./kg)

S.No.	Commodities	2020	2021	2022
1	Rice	34.25	35.98	37.03
2	Wheat	28.36	27.25	30.15
3	Atta	30.81	30.75	34.50
4	Gram Dal	68.59	75.26	73.66
5	Tur Dal	95.20	105.50	107.30
6	Urad Dal	101.80	107.90	106.60
7	Moong Dal	103.50	103.90	102.60
8	Masoor Dal	74.74	88.75	96.21
9	Groundnut Oil	147.00	176.30	189.20
10	Mustard Oil	123.30	170.70	182.00
11	Vanaspati	92.27	131.00	150.20
12	Soya Oil	102.80	147.30	158.40
13	Sunflower Oil	114.20	164.40	178.20
14	Palm Oil	92.140	128.30	134.80
15	Potato	31.25	21.34	25.20
16	Onion	35.88	32.52	28.00
17	Tomato	33.66	32.63	36.61
18	Sugar	39.85	40.62	41.87
19	Gur	47.89	47.68	49.31
20	Milk (Rs./Ltr.)	46.52	49.11	52.81
21	Tea Loose	224.7	279.80	282.50
22	Salt	16.27	18.09	20.25
