

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1712**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

**Price Rise of Essential Commodities**

†1712 SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL and SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government monitors the price rise situation of major essential commodities across the country on a regular basis and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any measures have been taken by the Government to pay attention to the issue of supply to control inflation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily retail and wholesale prices of 22 essential food commodities submitted by the 410 price monitoring centres that have been set up with Central assistance by the state governments and UT Administrations across the country.

(b) and (c) The Government takes various measures from time to time to augment domestic availability and stabilise the prices of essential food commodities. These steps, inter alia, include releases from the buffer stock, imposition of stock limits, monitoring of stocks declared by entities to prevent hoarding and also requisite changes in trade policy instruments.

The Central Government, w.e.f. 9 September 2022, imposed an export duty of 20 per cent on rice, brown rice, and semi-milled as well as wholly milled rice, except parboiled rice. 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 basic import duty on masur has been reduced to zero w.e.f. 27.07.2021. In addition, the Agri-cess on masur import has been reduced to zero from 13.02.2022 till 31.03.2023 which has been further extended till 31.03.2024. Further, to prevent hoarding and restrictive trade practices in case of tur, the Government on 12th August, 2022 issued a directive to all the States/UTs to enforce stock disclosure by stockholders as well as to monitor and verify the disclosed stocks. The Central Government, on 1 September 2022 also decided to provide 1.5 million tonnes of chana to States and UTs at a discounted rate for distribution under various welfare schemes.

Buffer stocks of pulses and onion are maintained under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) for strategic market interventions to cool down prices and to discourage hoarding and unscrupulous trading. The Government procured a record 2.51 lakh metric tonnes of onion for buffer stock under the PSF during 2022-23. Apart from market disposal which commenced from September 2022, States and Government/cooperative retail agencies have been offered onion at a discounted rate of ₹8/kg for making available to the retail consumers.

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