

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 313
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.09.2020**

PRICE RISE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

313. SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:
(OIH)

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

- (a) whether any hinderance is being faced in supply of eatable things to the consumers due to unprecedented increase in the retail prices of essential commodities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the percentage of Consumer Price Index during January to August 2020 and the current inflation rate in comparison to the previous year;
- (c) whether the steps taken by the Government to check the inflation are not adequate and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the factors responsible for the price hike of the eatable items and the effect of hike in diesel and petrol prices therein?

ANSWER

**उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री दानवे रावसाहेब दादाराव)**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)**

(a) & (b) : Monthly Average of retail prices in respect of 22 essential commodities monitored by Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) from April to August 2020 indicating the increase in retail prices is attached at **Annexure-I** and year on year Consumer Price Inflation as compiled by Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation (MoSPI) for 2019 and 2020 is at **Annexure-II**.

(c) & (d) : 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 agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato.

Ministry of Food Processing and Industries (MoFPI) has also formulated a new scheme “Operation Greens” for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain which, inter alia, has the objective of price stabilisation for producers and consumers by proper production planning in the TOP clusters and introduction of dual use varieties. These policy interventions by Government had ensured that the consumer price index of majority of essential food items have remained relatively stable or decline with only a few recordings marginal increase during January to July, 2020. The details of prices are annexed.

Prices of food items are inter-alia affected by mismatch in demand and supply, shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, seasonality, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities, artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing, etc.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.313 FOR 15.09.2020 REGARDING PRICE RISE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

All India Monthly Retail Prices of 22 Essential Commodities

Unit: Rs./Kg.					
Commodity	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20
Rice	34.07	34.09	34.34	34.21	34.54
Wheat	29.10	28.94	28.49	28.12	28.23
Atta (Wheat)	31.20	31.37	31.37	31.20	31.11
Gram Dal	69.01	68.26	66.57	66.48	66.36
Tur/Arhar Dal	94.53	94.73	92.96	93.14	93.03
Urad Dal	104.03	104.40	101.76	100.15	98.71
Moong Dal	108.61	111.01	108.94	106.92	103.52
Masoor Dal	72.96	76.23	76.61	76.70	77.35
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	143.80	146.56	147.96	149.25	149.23
Mustard Oil (Packed)	117.95	118.25	119.94	122.09	124.48
Vanaspati (Packed)	89.93	90.48	90.96	90.84	91.38
Soya Oil (Packed)	101.07	101.38	101.04	101.78	102.20
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	109.60	110.87	111.61	112.86	113.15
Palm Oil (Packed)	89.26	88.27	88.49	89.53	91.13
Potato	26.43	25.82	27.16	30.59	33.25
Onion	28.02	21.66	20.62	21.53	22.63
Tomato	22.37	19.46	24.46	48.18	45.77
Sugar	40.09	39.85	39.72	40.20	40.21
Gur	47.07	47.93	47.86	48.36	49.24
Milk (Rs./Ltr)	46.27	46.72	46.88	47.11	47.00
Tea Loose	218.82	217.93	219.59	220.88	223.98
Salt Pack (Iodised)	16.14	16.09	16.33	16.37	16.30

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.313 FOR 15.09.2020 REGARDING PRICE RISE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.
-----**Consumer Price Index (Inflation %)**

Months	2019	2020
January	1.97	7.59
February	2.57	6.58
March	2.86	5.84
April	2.99	*
May	3.05	*
June	3.18	6.23
July	3.15	6.93 (P)
August	3.28	
September	3.99	
October	4.62	
November	5.54	
December	7.35	

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**P – Provisional, * - Inflation figures not released by due to data inadequacy issues**
