

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 299**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021**

**PRICES OF EDIBLE OILS AND ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES**

**299. DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:**  
**SHRI RANJEETSINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:**  
**SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA:**  
**SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:**  
**SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:**  
**SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:**  
**SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:**  
**DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:**  
**ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:**  
**SHRI PARTHIBAN S.R.:**

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

- (a) whether there has been a global increase in the prices of edible oils, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the prices of essential commodities have increased drastically after COVID-19 lockdown period due to which consumers are forced to bear the brunt of inflation;
- (c) if so, the details of increase in prices of essential commodities and edible oils during the last three years and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government have taken steps to control inflation, reduce the prices of daily use commodities and edible oil and also enhance the production of edible oils and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether unlimited storage of foodgrains is permitted by amending the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in 2020 and
- (f) whether companies are hoarding edible oils due to which prices of the same are increasing and if so, the steps taken to check hoarding?

**A N S W E R**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

(a): Yes, Sir. The international prices of edible oils have increased between 51% to 80% during the last one year.

**(b): A comparison of the monthly average retail price of 22 essential commodities for February 2020 (pre-lockdown) with September 2020 (post-lockdown) showed an increase in prices of the vegetables such as potato and tomato, but moderate decline in some other commodities. In cereals the prices of rice increased by 3.58% while the prices of wheat declined by 3.19%. Among the pulses, Masoor dal and Tur dal recorded the highest increase of 15.07% and 9.22% respectively. In case of edible oils, sunflower oil and groundnut oil recorded an increase of 9.45% and 9.89% respectively.**

**(c): The details of increase in prices of essential commodities is Annexed. The 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 etc.**

**(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. To enhance the production of edible oils, Government vide Notification No. 34/2021-Customs, dated 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, has reduced the standard rate of duty on crude palm oil by 5 percent from 30.06.2021 and will effect upto 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021. The Government vide DGFT's Notification No. 10/2015-2020 dated 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, has amended the import policy of Refined Palm Oils from "restricted" to "free" with immediate effect and for a period of upto 31.12.2021.**

**A Centrally Sponsored Scheme i.e. National Food Security Mission (Oilseeds and Oil palm) has been implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in the country with effect from 2018-19 for increasing production and productivity of oilseeds and thereby edible oils. This mission comprises of three sub-missions namely, NFSM-Oilseeds, NFSM-Oil Palm and NFSM-Tree Borne Oilseeds and is being implemented through the State Department of Agriculture and Horticulture.**

**(e): Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 provides for an objective and transparent criteria based on price triggers for imposition of stock limits. It also provides for exemption to processors and value chain participants subject to overall ceiling of installed capacity of processing or the demand for export in case of an exporter. The objective is to encourage investment in post-harvest management activities such as storage and processing as well as logistics and supply chain management; leading in turn to an increase in farmers' income. The amendment also provides that Government can regulate the foodstuffs under extraordinary circumstances which may include war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity of grave nature. However, Hon'ble Supreme Court Vide its order dated 12.01.2021 has stayed implementation of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.**

**(f): No such report regarding hoarding of edible oils has been received from the States/UTs.**

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