

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2940  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2021**

**PROPER STORAGE FACILITY**

2940. SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:  
(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 Government has prepared any scheme to ensure the availability of tomato, potato and onion across the country without the fluctuation of its prices throughout the year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any plan for the proper storage facility for tomato, onion and potato; and
- (d) if so, the district-wise details thereof in Madhya Pradesh?

**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) to (d) : The Government has set up the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to tackle price volatility of identified agri-horticultural commodities such as onion, potato and pulses to protect the interests of consumers. Buffer stocks of pulses and onion are maintained under PSF for regulated release to help moderate the prices. Such market interventions by Government not only helps in sending the appropriate market signal but also deter speculative and hoarding activities. Further, the Government has issued advisory to States/UTs to set up the State-level Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) corpus with central assistance, and has requested States which have set up the Fund already, to make appropriate interventions for cooling down retail prices of essential food commodities.

In order to stabilize the retail prices of Onion, a buffer stock of 2.08 Lakh Metric Ton (LMT) Onion has been built in 2021-22. Open market releases of onion from the buffer have been targeted towards States/Cities where prices are increasing over the previous month and also in source markets to augment the availability in these key mandis and thereby reduce retail prices. States/UTs have been offered onion at Rs.21/kg ex-storage locations and same has been lifted by some States. As on 09.12.2021, 1.41 LMT of Onion quantity has been released from the Buffer stock.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare implements the scheme, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) under which financial assistance is provided for various horticulture activities including setting up of cold storages for perishable horticultural produce through State Governments. Further, the National Horticulture Board (NHB) implements a scheme namely, Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Products. Under the Operation Greens Scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries, grants-in-aid are provided for setting up of Value Chain Development Projects, including Cold Storages.

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