

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2927**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2022**

**DISTRIBUTION OF PULSES THROUGH PDS**

2927. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:

**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 is aware of spiralling prices of edible oil and pulses in open market;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such profiteering in the absence of price restriction on essential commodities;
- (c) whether the Government plans to reintroduce edible oil and pulses control order; and
- (d) if so, the timeline fixed in this regard; and
- (e) the reasons for not distributing edible oil and pulses through PDS by the Government?

**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 Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily retail and wholesale prices of 22 essential food commodities submitted by the 184 price monitoring centres that have been set up with Central assistance by State Governments and UT Administrations across the country. Taking into account price trends, the Government takes various measures from time to time to augment domestic availability and stabilize prices of essential food commodities and make them accessible to all the consumers across India at affordable prices. These steps, *inter alia*, include releases from the buffer to cool down prices, imposition of stock limits, monitoring of stocks declared by entities to prevent hoarding and also requisite changes in trade policy instruments like rationalization of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on exports of the commodity etc.

Strategic buffer stocks of pulses and onion are maintained to stabilise prices by discouraging hoarding and unscrupulous speculation. Pulses from the buffer are released in the market for cooling down prices and also supplied on ongoing basis to the States/UTs for distribution under welfare and nutrition schemes. Onions from the buffer are released in a targeted and calibrated manner during the lean season (Aug - Dec) to contain price rise. At present there is no proposal to reintroduction pulses control order. In respect of edible oils and oilseeds, the Government has imposed stock limits on Edible Oils and Oilseeds for a period up to 31st December 2022.

(e) : Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Government makes allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) as per the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, that is, 5kg of foodgrains per person per month to priority households, and 35 Kg of foodgrains per household per month in case of household covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana(AAY). The State Government may continue with or formulate food or nutrition based plans or schemes providing for benefits higher than the benefits provided under this act. Pulses from the Price Stabilisation Buffer and Price Support Scheme are made available to States/UTs for distribution under various welfare schemes including Public Distribution System (PDS) by them as per their requirement.