

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 631
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2022

PRICES OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS

631. 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) the steps taken by the Government to curb the rising prices of basic consumer products; and
- (b) whether the Government has formulated a plan to make the products accessible to marginalized communities at discounted rates, if so, the details thereof?

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) & (b) : 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 the consumers, including marginalised communities, 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 as also requisite changes in trade policy instruments like rationalization of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on exports of the commodity etc.

Buffer stocks of pulses and onion are maintained for price stabilization. The procurements for the buffer gives support to farmers and releases from the buffer augment availability in the market and cools down the prices for consumers. A buffer stock of 2.50 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) onion has been built in 2022-23 by procuring rabi-2022 harvest. The stocks from the buffer will be released in a targeted and calibrated manner during lean season (Aug - Dec) to contain price rise.

In order to ensure smooth and seamless import of pulses to augment domestic availability, import of Tur and Urad has been kept under 'Free Category' till 31.03.2023. In respect of Masur, the basic import duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) have been brought down to zero. In order to improve the domestic availability and to keep prices of edible oils under control, the basic duty on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean Oil and Crude Sunflower Oil has been reduced from 2.5% to Nil, and the AIDC on these Oils has been brought to 5%. The basic duty on Refined Soyabean oil and Refined Sunflower Oil has been reduced from 32.5 % to 17.5% and on Refined Palm Oil reduced from 17.5% to 12.5%. The Government has extended the import of Refined Palm Oils under Free Category for a period upto 31.12.2022. Further, futures trading in mustard seed on NCDEX has been suspended. In order to ensure the smooth availability of edible oils and oil-seeds in the country, the Government has imposed stock limits on Edible Oils and Oilseeds for a period up to 31st December 2022. In its latest initiative to ease the prices of Edible Oils and provide relief to the consumers, the Government has issued Notification for allocation of Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for import of 20 LMT of Crude Soyabean Oil and 20 LMT of Crude Sunflower Oil for the financial year 2022-23 and 2023-24 at zero import duty and zero AIDC.
