

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2216**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

**Inflation and Price Rise**

2216. SMT. LOVELY ANAND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to control inflation and price rise of groceries and household items;
- (b) whether the cost of daily use of household items and groceries have become out of reach from the general people, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether low income, unemployment, high cost of petroleum products and low productivity of crops due to climate change are the main reasons for high inflation and price rises in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): The Government has taken various steps to control the prices of essential household items and make them affordable to the people. A buffer stock is maintained for pulses and onions from which periodic open market releases are made. Retail sales of wheat flour (atta), rice, chana dal, and moong dal are undertaken at subsidised prices through specified outlets. The other measures include rationalizing import duties of select pulses and edible oils, imposition of stock limits on wheat, tur, and desi chana to prevent hoarding and speculation, and, reduction in the prices of petrol, diesel, and LPG. The Government also reduced the GST rates on various essential items from time to time. Variations in the prices of widely-used household items is captured by the movements in Consumer Price Index-Combined (CPI). Overall inflation based on the CPI gradually declined in the last 4 quarters.

(c) & (d): Overall inflationary pressures moderated to 5.4 per cent in 2023-24 and further to 4.9 per cent in quarter 1 (April-June 2024) of 2024-25, majorly driven by declining trends in non-food inflation. Aided by the cut in the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG, inflation in these items has been negative during recent months. Food inflation is affected by weather-affected crop losses and supply chain disruptions.

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