

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2695
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2024

CONTROLLING OF FOOD INFLATION

2695. SMT. 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 Government's plan to control food inflation without resorting to export curbs; and
- (b) the manner in which the Government intends to deal with the increasing rice stocks without allowing exports given the prediction of a good harvest this year?

ANSWER
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री बी.एल. वर्मा)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

(a) : The Government takes, from time to time, various measures to control the prices of essential food commodities. These measures include release of stocks from the buffer, imposition of stock limits and changes in import-export policy to augment availability in the market. Union Budget 2024-25 has allocated Rs.10,000 crore under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) scheme of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, for maintaining a stable price regime in the economy. The allocated fund will be utilised for building adequate quantities of pulses and onion buffers for market interventions to stabilise prices and control inflation.

(b) : In order to reduce the surplus stocks of rice prior to the commencement of the new procurement, the Government has allowed grain deficient states to directly purchase rice from Food Corporation of India (FCI) under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) (OMSS [D]) without participating in the e-auction from August 1st, 2024. Under the OMSS (D), the Department of Food and Public Distribution will directly offload rice to states for Rs.2,800 per quintal (excluding the cost of transportation). If the States/UTs want to procure more than the stipulated 5 kg of free grain per individual, then they can procure that at the same price at Rs.2,800 per quintal instead of earlier Rs.2,900 per quintal. Further, the sale of atta and rice under the 'Bharat' brand will continue.
