

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2106
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

FOOD INFLATION

2106. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B:
SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether food inflation remains above 8 percent despite claims of price stability and favourable production estimates for pulses and onions and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure price stabilization and protect farmers from exploitation by middlemen in view of increased production of tur dal during 2024-25;
- (c) the manner in which the Government plans to ensure that expected increase in onion production during 2024 reaches consumer markets in a timely and efficient manner to prevent shortages and price fluctuations;
- (d) the concrete measures being taken by the Government to ensure that the reduction in food inflation is sustained during 2025 particularly given the ongoing global supply chain disruptions affecting domestic food prices; and
- (e) the mechanism of the Government to monitor the prices of essential food commodities including tur, onions and prevent hoarding and speculative pricing?

ANSWER

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

(a) : No, Sir. As per latest data of food inflation, measured by year-on-year percentage variation in Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) published by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, is 6.02% in January 2025.

(b) to (d) In order to incentivise pulses production, including Tur, for price stabilisation and to protect farmers, the government initiated pre-registration through procuring agencies namely, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) for direct procurement. In the current procurement season of 2024-25, NAFED and NCCF together procured 80,836 MT of Tur, till date.

In order to tackle the volatility in prices, government maintains buffer stocks of pulses and onion for market interventions through calibrated and targeted release to moderate the prices in the market. During 2024-25, government procured 4.70 lakh metric tonnes of Onion for PSF buffer. Onion from the buffer had been released during September to December, 2024 in a calibrated and targeted manner to moderate prices in high price consuming centres at wholesale markets and through retail outlets. Onions from the buffer were distributed among retail consumers at Rs.35 per kg through stationary retail outlets and mobile vans in major consumption centres.

Government keeps a close watch on the production and availability of essential agri-horticultural commodities through regular reviews by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC). The Committee reviews, on regular basis, the situation of prices and price trends of essential agri-horticulture commodities and suggests measures to enhance availability through increased domestic production and through imports. The deliberations and policy recommendations of the IMC includes global scenario and measures to protect the domestic consumers and farmers from supply chain disruptions.

(e) : Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily retail and wholesale prices of 38 essential food commodities, including prices of Tur dal and Onion, submitted by the 555 price monitoring centres that have been set up with Central assistance by the State Governments and UT Administrations across the country. The daily report of prices and indicative price trends are duly analysed for taking appropriate decisions such as release of stocks from the buffer, stock disclosure by stockholding entities, imposition of stock limits, changes in trade policy instruments like rationalisation of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on exports of the commodity etc.
