

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*17  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025/ *Ashadha 30, 1947 (Saka)***

**IMPACT OF RISING INFLATION**

**\*17. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the impact of rising inflation on employment levels and household incomes, particularly among the poor and youth;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to control inflation and generate sustainable employment opportunities across sectors?

**ANSWER**

**THE FINANCE MINISTER  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)**

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.17 RAISED BY SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN FOR 21<sup>st</sup> JULY, 2025 ON “IMPACT OF RISING INFLATION”**

(a) to (c): The Government has undertaken a series of measures to control inflation, while fostering sustainable employment and improving household incomes, particularly among the poor and the youth. These include, inter alia, the augmentation of buffer stocks for essential food items, strategic sales of procured grains in the open market, facilitation of imports and export curbs during periods of short supply, implementation of stock limits to push more supplies of select commodities into the market, retail sales of select food items under the Bharat brand at subsidised rates, and above all, distribution of food grains free of cost to around 81 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act and increasing the disposable income of individuals by exempting annual incomes up to ₹12 lakh (and ₹12.75 lakh for salaried individuals with standard deduction) from income tax. As a consequence of various measures, average retail inflation rate (year on year) measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) declined from 5.4 per cent in 2023-24 to 4.6 per cent in 2024-25, the lowest in the last 6 years. Furthermore, CPI declined to an average of 2.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2025-26, ending the quarter at 2.1 per cent in June 2025. The deceleration in food inflation continued through Q1 of 2025-26 and reached a negative territory with (-) 1.06 per cent in June 2025, lowest after January 2019.

In addition to inflation control measures, various steps have been taken to expand job opportunities through various employment generation and skill development programs such as Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana, Employment Linked Incentives to industries, National Urban/Rural Livelihoods Missions, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Kaushal Vikas Yojanas etc. Further, 'Rural Prosperity and Resilience' programme was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 to address underemployment in agriculture through skilling, investment and technology, focusing on women, youth, marginal farmers etc. Consequent to various measures, the all-India annual unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 years and above (as per usual status) declined from 6 per cent in 2017-18 to 3.2 per cent in 2023-24.

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