

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1725**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025**

**PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS**

1725. SHRI THARANIVENTHAN M S:  
DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the steep rise in prices of essential food items such as rice, pulses, onions and tomatoes, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to curb food inflation, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas of the country;
- (c) whether the Government plans to release additional stocks from the buffer to stabilize prices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) : Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily prices of 38 essential food commodities including rice, pulses, onions and tomatoes submitted by the 566 price monitoring centres across the country. As per the data, prices of essential food commodities are stable and under control.

(b) : Government keeps a close watch on the production and availability of essential 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.

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. Part of the stock of pulses from the buffer were converted to dals for retail sale to the consumers at affordable prices under the Bharat Dal brand during 2023-24 and 2024-25. Similarly, atta and rice are distributed to retail consumers under Bharat brand at subsidized prices. 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 were distributed among retail consumers at Rs.35 per kg through stationary retail outlets and mobile vans in major consumption centres. The government restricts the export of sugar to ensure domestic availability and is closely monitoring the prices of edible oils and take necessary measures to make these commodities affordable to the consumers.

These measures have helped in making essential food commodities available to the general consumers at affordable prices and helped in bring down the year-on-year food inflation rate to (-) 1.06% in June, 2025, which is the lowest after January 2019.

(c) & (d) : Strategic buffer stock is maintained for disposal in situation of price rise with the quantity and timing of intervention aligned to prevailing market conditions.

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