

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1754
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

1754. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the recent rise in prices of essential commodities such as pulses, edible oils and vegetables;
- (b) the factors responsible for these price fluctuations; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to stabilize prices and ensure adequate buffer stocks under the Public Distribution System (PDS)?

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 food commodities, including pulses and edible oils, and major vegetables, submitted by the 575 price monitoring centres set up by the State Governments and UT Administrations with Central assistance. As per the data, prices of essential food commodities are stable and under control.

(b) : Prices of agri-horticultural commodities tend to be volatile as they are affected by several factors, such as seasonality in production, adverse weather conditions, supply chain disruptions, artificial shortages created by hoarding and black marketing, rise in international prices etc. Sometimes slight disruptions in the supply chain or crop damage due to adverse weather condition etc. lead to spike in the prices of agri-horticultural commodities. Conversely, bulk arrival and logistics problems have the potential of creating a situation of glut in the market and resultant dip in prices.

(c) : Government of India sells surplus food grains (Wheat & Rice), beyond the public Distribution System (PDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) requirements, through open sale under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) (OMMSS(D)). This helps increase the availability of food grains in the market, control inflation, ensure food security and make food grains more affordable for the general population. In addition, Bharat Atta and Bharat Rice were launched on 6.11.2023 and 6.02.2024, respectively, with a view to provide atta (wheat flour) and rice to general consumers at subsidized rates under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) (OMSS(D)) policy.
