

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6038
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2026

RISING FOOD PRICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION FAILURES

6038. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the sharp rise in prices of essential commodities including pulses, edible oils, vegetables and foodgrains, severely impacting middleclass and poor households across the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons for continued price volatility despite buffer stock policies, market intervention schemes and anti-hoarding measures;
- (c) the details of inspections conducted, hoarding cases booked and penalties imposed during the last two years to control artificial price rise; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes stronger price monitoring, transparent stock disclosure norms, stricter enforcement against profiteering and direct market intervention to ensure affordability and protect consumers from inflationary pressures?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily prices of 40 essential food commodities submitted by the 578 price monitoring centres across the country. As per the data, prices of food commodities are largely stable and under control.

The prices of food commodities tend to be volatile as they are affected by several factors such as seasonality in production, supply chain disruptions, rise in international prices etc. Prices of edible oils like sunflower oils and mustard oil recorded increasing trend on year-on-year basis while prices of pulses, foodgrains and vegetables are stable.

(c) & (d) : In order to make the daily price monitoring stronger, Department of Consumer Affairs developed the Price Monitoring System (PMS) Mobile App for reporting the daily price data by the price reporting centres. Data reported through PMS Mobile App are geo-tagged to ensure reporting from the market locations and has inbuilt feature to calculate and report the average price from three collection centres thereby avoiding human errors in calculation. An analytical dashboard has been developed for analysis of prices data through graphical visualisation, heat map, comparison between commodities and geographies, price forecasting etc. 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.

In order to monitor the stock of pulses, the Department of Consumer Affairs directed traders, millers, importers, and organised retail chains to disclose their stock holding of pulses on the stock disclosure portal i.e. <https://fcainfoweb.nic.in/psp/> on weekly basis. A total of 26668 traders, dealers, millers, importers, stockists and big chain retailers are registered across India, holding a total stock of 5170282.56 MT of pulses, namely Gram, Tur, Urad, Moong, Masoor and Dried Matar, as per the stock disclosure portal as on 22.03.2026. Further, the actions taken by State Governments and UT Administrations against hoarders and black-marketers are being continuously monitored through the online ATR portal, i.e. <https://fcainfoweb.nic.in/ecre>. The actions taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during the years 2024 and 2025 are as below:

Year	No of raids conducted	Number of persons arrested	Value of Goods Confiscated (in Rs. Crore)
2024	1,23,406	21,040	2,425.55
2025	1,02,378	17,402	120.13
