

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1529
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.05.2016**

PRICE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

1529. SHRI ANANTKUMAR HEGDE:
(OIH) SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
MAJ GEN B C KHANDURI AVSM (Retd):
DR. P. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION **मिनिस्टर कौंस्युमर अफेयर्स, फूड अण्ड पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्युशन** **be pleased to state:**

- the criteria and norms for fixation of the prices of essential commodities in the country;
- whether there has been unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities including vegetables and pulses in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- the corrective steps, including imports, being undertaken by the Government to contain/stabalise the prices of above commodities; and
- whether any cases of hoarding of essential commodities including grains and pulses have been reported/detected during the last three years, if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/proposed in this regard?

ANSWER

मिनिस्टर कौंस्युमर अफेयर्स, फूड अण्ड पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्युशन
के द्वारा जवाब दिया जाता है कि:

**THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)**

(a) : Prices of food items are largely market determined except for subsidised food items distributed through Public Distribution System.

(b) : The requisite details based on the Wholesale Price Index (2004-05) is given below:

Annual Inflation rate (%)				
Group/Sub Group	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 P
Food articles	9.9	12.8	6.1	3.73
(i) Pulses	19.6	-5.5	5.9	34.45
(ii) Vegetables	17.2	40.2	-6.1	-2.26
Food products	8.1	3.2	2.4	4.47

Source: Office of Economic Adviser, DIPP P= Provisional

(c) : The requisite information is at **Annexure I**.

(d) : The requisite information is at **Annexure II**.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1529 FOR 03.05.2016 REGARDING PRICE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

Steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of essential food items.

General Measure:

1. National Consultation Meeting of the minister of states/UTs in-charge of Consumer Affairs and Food held on 7th July, 2015 at New Delhi resolved to take steps to keep prices of essential commodities, especially Pulses and onion under control.
2. Advisory were issued to State Governments to take strict action against hoarding & black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 & the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
3. Regular review meeting on price and availability situation is being held at the highest level including at the level of Finance Minister, Committee of Secretaries, Inter Ministerial Committee, Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee and other Departmental level review meetings.
4. Higher MSP has been announced so as to incentivize production and thereby enhance availability of food items which may help moderate prices.
5. A Plan Scheme titled Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is being implemented to regulate price volatility of agricultural commodities.

Specific Measures:

Onion

6. Export of onion were restricted through imposition of Minimum Export Price (MEP) when prices were ruling high and import is allowed at zero duty.
7. Retail sale of onion was undertaken from the stock held by SFAC and NAFED.
8. Imported 2000 MT of onion from Egypt and China through MMTC. As no demands from state were received, the onion were disposed off through tender in the open market.
9. The stock limits in respect of onion have been extended by one more year i.e. up to 2nd July 2016 under the Essential Commodities Act.
10. Procurement of 15000 MT of onion by SFAC and NAFED for market intervention during lean period has been approved.

Pulses

11. Export of all pulses is banned except kabuli channa and up to 10,000 MTs in organic pulses and lentils.
12. Import of pulses are allowed at zero import duty.
13. Stock limit on pulses extended till 30.9.2016.
14. Government imported 5000 MT of Tur from Malawi/Mozambique and allocated it to States for retail sale to consumers to improve availability and to moderate prices.
15. MSP (including bonus) raised for kharif pulses for Tur and Urad and Moong. MSP also raised for Rabi pulses for Gram and Masoor.
16. Government has approved creation of buffer stock of 1.5 lakh MT of pulses for effective market intervention.
17. Government has decided to immediately release 10,000 MT of pulses from the buffer stock (consisting of 8,000 MT of Tur and 2,000 MT of Urad) to States/UTs at subsidized rates for retailing by them at not more than Rs 120/- per kg to improve availability and stabilise prices.
18. Regulatory measures by Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Chana contracts including increase in the margin requirement to discourage speculation and to moderate the price volatility in forward market and close monitoring by SEBI
19. Strict vigilance by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence to prevent importers from mis-using the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility
20. Setting up of a Group of Officers for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization etc.

Edible Oils

21. Export of edible oils in bulk is prohibited except coconut oil and other edible oils in branded consumer packs of up to 5 kgs is permitted with a minimum export price of USD 900 per MT.
22. MSP increased for various rabi and kharif oil seeds.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1529 FOR 03.05.2016 REGARDING PRICE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955 DURING 2016

(Relating to offences under EC Act- for other than violation of stock control orders/ for violation of stock control orders)

Updated as on 28.04.2016

Sl. No.	STATES/UTs	No. of Raids Conducted	No. of Persons			Value of goods Confiscated (Rs. In Lakhs)	Detentions Ordered	Reported upto
			Arrested	Prosecuted	Convicted			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		January
2.	DELHI	1	-	-	-	-		January
3.	GOA	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		March
4.	GUJARAT	1641	0	1	-	21.29	4	February
5.	HARYANA	17	-	-	-	-		*
6.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	3912	-	-	-	5.03		February
7.	KERALA	10	4	1	0	0.10		January
8.	MAHARASHTRA	75	93	45	0	26.95		February
9.	MANIPUR	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		January
10.	MIZORAM	3	-	-	-	-		January
11.	NAGALAND	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		January
12.	RAJASTHAN	35	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		*
13.	SIKKIM	30	-	-	-	-		February
14.	TELANGANA	479	67	5	5	25.52	7	February
15.	UTTARAKHAND	591	2	-	-	-		March (Except Feb.)
16.	UTTAR PRADESH	10886	27	21	3	30.84		March
17.	WEST BENGAL	113	23	11	NIL	9043.96		February
18.	A & N ISLANDS	29	-	-	-	-		March
19.	CHANDIGARH	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		February
20.	D & N HAVELI	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		February
21.	PUDUCHERRY	231	-	-	-	0.14		March
22.	TAMILNADU	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	46	-
	TOTAL	18061	216	84	8	9153.83	57	

Note: Other States have not submitted report so far., NR : Not Reported, * : Raids under Pulses only

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955 DURING THE YEARS 2014-2015
(Relating to offences of violation of stock control orders)

Updated as on 28.4.2016

Sl. No.	STATE/Uts	No. of Raids Conducted		No. of Persons					
				Arrested		Prosecuted		Convicted	
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
1	Andhra Pradesh	6884	1300	64	0	0	23	0	23
2	Arunachal Pradesh	NR	3	NR	1	NR	-	NR	-
3	Assam	148	NR	NIL	NR	NIL	NR	NIL	NR
4	Bihar	25	299	9	NIL	6	NIL	-	NIL
5	Chattisgarh	101	673	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Delhi	NR	24	NR	2	NR	NIL	NR	NIL
7	Goa	93	96	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
8	Gujarat	11089	9098	41	25	25	16	-	-
9	Harayana	99	3229	46	123	13	138	1	-
10	Himachal Pradesh	27220	39314	0	-	-	-	-	-
11	Jammu & Kashmir	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
12	Jharkhand	NR	140	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
13	Karnataka	525	4529	225	199	0	0	1	6
14	Kerala	24855	8465	17	26	3	12	0	1
15	Madhya Pradesh	3255	38648	35	-	89	111	3	6
16	Maharashtra	973	6302	7173	777	250	277	0	2
17	Manipur	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
18	Meghalaya	373	41	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
19	Mizoram	145	141	0	-	0	-	NIL	-
20	Nagaland	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
21	Orissa	10102	2291	-	NIL	18	NIL	-	NIL
22	Punjab	1763	10443	3	-	NIL	-	NIL	-
23	Rajasthan	NR	840	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
24	Sikkim	NIL	71	NIL	-	NIL	-	NIL	-
25	Tamil Nadu	9176	29	3949	41	1980	41	2068	0
26	Tripura	447	4601	10	349	10	2	NR	0
27	Uttarakhand	NR	199	1	NR	1	1	1	NR
28	Uttar Pradesh	25879	5	202	9	738	9	0	1
29	West Bengal	729	2045	173	107	28	121	-	17
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	NIL	780	NIL	174	NIL	52	NIL	-
31	Chandigarh	NR	86	NR	NIL	NR	NIL	NR	NIL
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	2	0	1	0	17	NIL	3
33	Daman & Diu	NR	NIL	NR	NIL	NR	NIL	NR	NIL
34	Lakshadweep	NB	NR	NB	NR	NB	NR	NB	NR
35	Puducherry	848	3	14	NIL	24	NIL	0	NIL
36	Telangana	7136	741	55	1	0	2	0	-
	TOTAL	131868	134438	12017	1835	3185	822	2074	59

Source: Reports received from State Governments/UTs, NR: *Not Reported, NB: No Blackmarketing.
