ORIGINAL IN HINDI

Government of India

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1671
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2026

BUFFER STOCK OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

1671. SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH:
SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:

(OIH)

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

(a) whether the Government has buffer stock of essential commodities available in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to increase the buffer stock of essential commodities;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the names of the commodities for which this scheme is proposed;

(e) the details of the benefits likely to accrue from the scheme in controlling the prices of essential commodities; and

(f) the details of the budget allocated by the Union Government for this purpose?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) : Government set up Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) in 2014-15 to tackle the volatility in the prices of agri-horticultural commodities. Under the scheme, dynamic buffer stock of major pulses, namely Chana, Tur, Urad, Moong and Masur, and also onion are maintained. The stocks from the buffer are released in calibrated manner to stabilize the volatility in prices and make these commodities available to consumers at affordable prices.

In order to bring about convergence between the price stabilisation efforts for protection of consumers under PSF and price support for the farmers under Price Support Scheme (PSS), government has integrated the two schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme. Under the convergence framework, all procurement of pulses, including the procurement for the buffer, at Minimum Support Price (MSP) are done under the PSS and the procurement of pulses for the buffer at other than MSP, i.e., market price are done under PSF. Through the initiative, both PSF and PSS are made jointly responsible for the procurement of pulses for the buffer and helped in the building of pulses buffer. During FY 2025–26, a total of 31.38 lakh tonnes of pulses were procured under PSS as against 18.39 LMT in FY 2024–25. The enhanced procurement has enabled the government to build adequate buffer stocks of pulses.

Regulated release of pulses from the buffer to augment the availability helps in cooling down the market prices and ensures availability at affordable prices. Market interventions through buffer stock also helps in nudging the market players lower their prices. Further, buffer stock of pulses with the government acts as deterrent against manipulative hoarding and unscrupulous speculations by market players. In case of onion, the buffer stock plays critical role in controlling the seasonal fluctuation in prices. The period between Rabi and Kharif onion harvests is associated with rise in prices due to the depletion in stored Rabi onions. Onions from the government buffer are released during this lean season in regulated and targeted manner to augment the market availability and stabilise the prices.

(f) : Government has allocated an amount of Rs.4, 100 crore under Price Stabilisation Fund in 2026-27 (BE).

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