

**Price-rise of essential items**

435. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of vegetables and other essential items are increasing substantially every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the firm steps Government will take to control the prices of essential items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Yes. The details of annual all India average retail prices of essential food items for the last two years and the current year up to June 2014 are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The recent initiatives taken by the Government to improve the availability and contain prices of essential food items include:

- (i) Fixed Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 300 per MT for onion *w.e.f.* 17.6.2014 and increased to USD 500 per MT *w.e.f.* 2.7.2014.
- (ii) Fixed Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 450 per MT for potato *w.e.f.* 26.6.2014.
- (iii) Imposed stock holding limits on onion and potato under Essential Commodities Act which empowers State Governments/UTs to fix the stock limits for traders *w.e.f.* 3.7.2014.
- (iv) States advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from APMC Act.
- (v) Government has approved the release of additional five million tonnes of Rice to BPL and APL families in States pending implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- (vi) Issued advisory to state Governments to take effective action against hoarding and Black marketing under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

***Statement****All India Average Annual Retail Prices*

Commodities Name	2012	2013	(₹ per Kg)
			2014 (up to 8.7.2014)*
Rice	22	26	28
Wheat	18	21	21
Atta (Wheat)	19	23	23
Gram Dal	58	55	48
Tur dal	65	69	70
Urad dal	60	60	67
Moong dal	66	74	85
Masoor dal	51	57	62
Groundnut Oil	124	130	121
Mustard Oil	100	100	98
Vanaspati	75	72	76
Soya Oil	84	85	84
Sunflower Oil	93	98	96
Palm Oil	71	68	71
Potato	15	17	19
Onion	14	33	20
Tomato	20	28	18
Sugar	36	36	35
Gur	37	40	40
Milk	31	34	36
Tea Loose	190	201	204
Salt	13	14	14

*Source:* State Civil Supplies Departments

\* Latest available