

(b) whether it is a fact that to tide over the situation Government is planning to import pulses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) Rise in the prices of essential food items including pulses are triggered by several factors such as adverse weather conditions, rise in transportation cost, supply constraints and artificial shortages due to hoarding and black marketing. In respect of pulses, the recent rise in prices is mainly on account of a sharp fall in production due to adverse weather conditions.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to import pulses to augment domestic availability and stabilise prices.

Violation of manufacturing standards by MNCs

575. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Multi-National Companies (MNCs) have violated the regulatory and manufacturing standards recently;

(b) if so, the number of cases filed in the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission/Consumer Forum against the adulteration/sub-standard products of MNCs such as Maggi and other eatable products;

(c) if so, whether Government has also filed cases against the accused MNCs, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the accused MNCs?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No case has been filed in the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission against adulteration/sub-standard products of MNCs such as Maggi and other eatable products, as informed by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

(c) The Government has not filed any case against the accused MNCs so far.

(d) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has directed M/s Nestle India Ltd. to recall all the 09 variants of Maggi Noodles, and also issued a show cause notice as to why the NOCs/Product Approvals granted in respect of the said products should not be withdrawn.

Further, "No Objection Certificates" (NOCs) of various food products (more particularly the Energy Drinks) manufactured by different companies including the MNCs have been withdrawn and orders issued for recall of the products.

Rise in prices of pulses and edible oils

576. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether prices of pulses and edible oils have increased sharply during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof since April, 2015 and the reasons for the same; and

(c) the reasons for failure of Government to check rise in prices of pulses and edible oils in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) During the last three months (April 2015-June 2015), there was an increase in the average retail prices of all major varieties of pulses and amongst edible oils a marginal increase in groundnut oil and mustard oil as per details given in the Statement (*See below*).

The upward trend in prices of pulses is due to decline in domestic production due to adverse weather conditions. Government has already taken a decision to import pulses to augment availability and stabilize prices.

Statement

All India monthly average retail prices of pulses and edible oils.

Unit: (₹/kg)

Commodity	April-2015	May-2015	June-2015	Variation in Rupees (April-June, 2015)
1	2	3	4	5
Gram Dal	51	57	59	8
Tur/Arhar Dal	85	92	95	10
Urad Dal	83	91	97	14
Moong Dal	100	102	101	1