

Providing cheaper pulses to beneficiaries of PDS in Chhattisgarh

†1361. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of pulses have increased affecting poor the most;
- (b) whether Government has made provision of providing two kilogram of pulses at ₹10 per kg. to every ration-card holders, if so, whether it would reduce the inflation;
- (c) whether the above provision can be experimented at pilot basis in Chhattisgarh Public Distribution System in view of the fact that pulses, potato and onion are not produced there; and
- (d) whether the hoarding of oilseeds and edible oil can be eliminated by declaring the offences of hoarding non-bailable?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) Pulses being the major source of protein, an increase in its prices has an adverse impact on all consumers including the poor.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Declaring hoarding as a non-bailable offence may act as a deterrent and is likely to reduce hoarding/black-marketing.

Rise in prices of pulses

1362. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rising prices of pulses across the country is becoming a major issue for Government;
- (b) whether both wholesale and retail prices have been rising month after month and the problem is likely to get bigger because of expected fall in this year's production; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government is taking including increasing import of pulses and also to continue the current policy of zero per cent duty on import of the key food items?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) There has been an increase in both wholesale and retail prices of all major varieties of pulses this year. However, the trends show a moderation in these prices over the last three months. The details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

- (c) The requisite details are given in the Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.