

**Procurement of pulses**

731. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to start procuring pulses directly from farmers through NAFED and Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC);
- (b) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to create buffer stock of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) NAFED, SFAC and FCI will procure of pulses (Tur and Urad) in the Kharif 2015 season at prevailing market rates from farm gate/Mandis for creation of buffer stocks. The COS meeting held on 19.10.2015 recommended building buffer stock of Pulses.

- (c) ₹ 50 crore and ₹ 40 crore has been released to FCI and NAFED respectively to start procurement of pulses in Kharif Marketing Season 2015-16. SFAC will undertake procurement from ₹ 9 crore PSF fund already available with them.

**Rise in prices of pulses**

732. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of pulses rose up to 42 per cent in October as compared to the same period last year due to hoarding;
- (b) the action taken against hoarders and measures taken to bring down the prices of pulses; and
- (c) whether unscrupulous traders are selling Tur (Arhar) Dal at ₹ 200 per kg. in open market whereas Kendriya Bhandar is selling it at ₹ 120 per kg. for the benefit of the people of Delhi, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The requisite information is given in the following Table:

*All-India Monthly Average Retail Prices of Major Pulses (₹ /kg)*

Pulses	Oct-14	Oct-15	% Variation (October 2015 Over October 2014)
Gram dal	46.2	68.05	47.29
Tur dal	74.11	143.78	94.01
Urad dal	76.32	129.42	69.58
Moong dal	89.25	107.2	20.11
Masoor dal	69.81	90.27	29.31

The main reason for the increase in prices of pulses is a decline in production in 2014-15 on account of adverse weather conditions. Other factors such as supply constraints and artificial shortage due to hoarding and black-marketing also affected the prices.

(b) Intensive raids have also been conducted by the States/UTs to arrest the rising prices of pulses. As a result, as on 30.11.15, total of 1.34 lakh tonnes of pulses have been seized in 14 States/UTs from 14,080 raids. Action has also been initiated by State Governments to dispose off the seized pulses. Specific measures taken to control prices of pulses also include continuation of zero import duty on pulses; ban on export of pulses with some exemptions; import of pulses through Price Stabilisation Fund scheme; extension of stock limit on pulses up to 30.9.2016; retail sale of imported Tur at the rate of ₹ 120/- per kg by outlets of Kendriya Bhandar and Safal, etc.

(c) As reported by Delhi Government, the current ruling price of Tur dal is around ₹ 164/- per kg in the open market. As regards unscrupulous traders, the State/UT Governments are fully empowered to take action against them under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 & the Prevention of Black-marketing Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

**National food processing policy**

733. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to bring out National Food Processing Policy to reduce wastage of perishables and improve supply position thereof;

(b) if so, by when it would be finalized;