

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;

(c) the quantity of wastage of fruits due to their perishable nature and in terms of money during the last three years; and

(d) whether construction of cold storages and warehouses would be encouraged, both in private sector and through joint venture, for preservation of perishables and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has got quantitative assessment of harvest and post-harvest losses studied by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana. The study published in March 2015, reported that annual value of harvest and post-harvest losses of major agricultural produces at national level was of the order of ₹ 92,651 crore at 2014 wholesale prices. The study also revealed that most of the wastage occurring in fruits ranges from 6.70% to 15.88%. The value of the harvest and post harvest loss in major fruits was of the order of ₹ 16644 crore annually.

(d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure since 2008 for setting up of integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities without any break from the farm gate to the consumer and for arresting post-harvest losses of perishable horticulture & non-horticulture produce. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and @ 75% for NE region and difficult areas (North Eastern states, Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of ₹ 10 crore per project for setting up the Cold chain infrastructure. Integrated cold chain and preservation Infrastructure can be set up by individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organizations, NGOs, Central/ State PSUs, etc.

Further, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is implementing a **“Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture”** for holistic development of Horticulture in the country including creation of post-harvest management infrastructure for better efficiency of supply chain to reduce losses of perishable horticulture produce. Post-harvest management component includes establishment of cold storages, primary/mobile processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled

atmosphere storage, reefer vans and setting up of ripening chambers, etc. Under post-harvest component, credit linked back ended subsidy @ 35% of the project cost in general areas and @ 50% in case of hilly and scheduled areas is available.

Schemes for promotion of FPIs in North-Eastern States

734. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the details of schemes being implemented by Government in North-Eastern States for promotion of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) during the last year, scheme-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): For promotion and development of food processing sector in the country including North-Eastern States, Ministry is implementing various Central Sector Schemes, namely (1) Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Processing having components of Mega Food Park, Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition & Preservation Infrastructure and Modernization of Abattoirs (2) Scheme of Technology Up-gradation / Establishment / Modernization of Food Processing Industries (spill-over liabilities) (3) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research & Development and Other Promotional Activities (4) Scheme for Human Resource Development (spill-over liabilities) and (5) Scheme of Strengthening of Institutions.

During the 12th Five Year Plan, Ministry also launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Mission on Food Processing' (NMFP) for implementation through the State Governments / Union Territories (UTs). The scheme was having the components of (i) Technology Up-gradation / Setting up / Modernization of Food Processing Units (ii) Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non-Horticulture Products (iii) Modernisation of Abattoirs (iv) Human Resource Development (v) Promotional Activities (vi) Creating Primary Processing Centers / Collection Centers in Rural Areas (vii) Modernisation of Meat Shops (viii) Reefer Vehicles and (ix) Food Park (Old Scheme). However, NMFP has been delinked from Central Government support w.e.f. 1.4.2015, except for UTs.

Assistance to States for strengthening irrigation facilities

†735. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is an agricultural country and is committed to strengthen the farmers and in this regard it has been announced that each and every field of farmers will be provided water for irrigation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.