

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs has revised items and norms of assistance under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)/State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) on 8th April, 2015, by which crop loss of 33% becomes eligible for Agriculture and Horticulture Input Subsidy as opposed to 50% crop loss as minimum threshold earlier. The assistance for agriculture/horticulture crop loss has been enhanced from ₹ 4500/- per ha. to 6800/- for rainfed areas, ₹ 9000/- per ha. to 13500/- per ha. for irrigated areas and ₹ 12000/- to ₹ 18,000/- per ha. for all type of perennial crops. Besides others, input subsidy for fish seed farm has also been enhanced from ₹ 6000/- per hectare to ₹ 8200/- per hectare.

**Distribution of expensive essential commodities under PDS**

2326. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to control the increasing high prices of essential foodstuffs, especially pulses and vegetables, including checking hoarding, increasing procurement and encouraging greater production;

(b) whether Government will distribute these expensive essential commodities to economically weaker sections through the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(c) if so, the details of foodstuffs distributed through PDS, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) Government's plan to further bring these high prices under control?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) For requisite information refer to Statement appended to answer to USQ 2319, Part (b) and (c)

(b) and (c) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is essentially supplemental in nature and is not intended to make available the entire requirement of any of the commodities distributed to a household or a section of the society.

At present under the PDS, while commodities like wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene are being allocated to the States/UTs for distribution, some States/UTs are also distributing through their PDS outlets additional items of mass consumption such as pulses, edible oils, iodized salt, spices, etc.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to tackle price fluctuations include appropriate policy measures for improving availability and ensuring stability in prices of essential commodities such as facilitating import of various items of mass consumption at zero or concessional import duties together with restrictions on export, fixation of Minimum Export Price (MEP) for onions, regulation of price volatility through assistance under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) Scheme, prescribing stock holding limits under Essential Commodities Act, allocation of foodgrains at affordable prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) etc.

#### **Measures to curb price rise of pulses**

2327. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that barring Chana Dal, retail prices of all pulses are above ₹100 per Kg. across the country;
- (b) if so, month-wise movement in prices of pulses during April-October 2015;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to curb price rise of pulses; and
- (d) how far have these moves helped in reducing prices of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The requisite details of All-India Monthly Average Retail Prices of the major varieties of pulses are as below:-

Major Pulses	All-India Monthly Average Retail Prices (₹/kg)						
	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15
Chana dal	51.31	56.54	59.4	60	61.09	63.78	68.05
Tur dal	85.23	91.89	95.33	98.42	105.13	119.95	143.78
Urad dal	82.99	91.33	97.34	98.86	100.88	107.54	129.42
Moong dal	100.41	102.29	101.29	99.11	98.36	99.71	107.2
Masoor dal	74.18	77.84	80.78	82.32	84.75	88.48	90.27

*Source:* State/UT Civil Supplies Deptts.

(c) and (d) The steps taken to check prices of pulses include extension of zero import duty on pulses, continuation of export ban on pulses except for Kabuli Chana