

**Rise in prices of pulses**

†619. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of Urad and Tur dal have shown a steep increase in March, 2016 as compared to that in March, 2015; and

(b) if so, the steps taken, if any, by Government to control the prices of these pulses, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The requisite details are as below:

All-India Monthly Average Retail Prices (₹/kg)

Item	Mar-15	Mar-16	% Variation
Tur dal	81.75	135.27	65.47
Urad dal	79.62	135.29	69.92

*Source:* States/UTs Civil Supplies Deptts.

(b) The requisite details are given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 618 Part (d)].

**Rise in prices of essential commodities**

620. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in the prices of essential commodities like foodgrains, edible oils, vegetables, milk etc. during the recent few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken, including importing foodgrains and releasing them in open market, to check the constant price-rise; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Over last six months All India Average Retail Prices of wheat in cereals, Tur and Moong in pulses, Mustard and Sunflower in Edible Oil and Onion in Vegetables have declined while there has been increase in the prices of Gram and Urad Dal in pulses, Groundnut and Palm Oil in Edible oils and Potato and Tomato in Vegetables. The prices of other commodities were either stable or rose marginally over the same period. Details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Rise in the prices of essential food items are due to factors such as shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, seasonality in production and availability, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities and hoarding and black marketing.

(c) and (d) Government took various steps to contain price rise, details are given in the Statement-II (*See* below). These steps *inter-alia* helped moderate the prices of essential commodities.

**Statement-I**

*Rise in prices of essential commodities*

Commodities	All India Average Retail Price (₹ Kg.)						
	Price As	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	% Variation over		
	On	Ago	Ago	Ago	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
	18.7.2016	18.6.2016	18.4.2016	18.1.2016			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rice	27.25	27.28	26.47	27.07	-0.11	2.95	0.66
Wheat	23.21	23.93	22.49	23.34	-3.01	3.2	-0.56
Gram Dal	94.57	80.12	68.23	67.73	18.04	38.6	39.63
Tur Dal	139.29	140.3	137.07	145.53	-0.72	1.62	-4.29
Urad Dal	151.33	154.23	140.1	138.63	-1.88	8.02	9.16
Moong Dal	97.15	98.01	101.07	105.64	-0.88	-3.88	-8.04
Masoor Dal	85.92	83.71	80.51	83.72	2.64	6.72	2.63
Groundnut Oil	133.87	132.42	124.36	123.85	1.1	7.65	8.09
Mustard Oil	108.17	109.77	104.42	112.95	-1.46	3.59	-4.23
Vanaspati	74.75	74.03	70.94	72.01	0.97	5.37	3.81
Soya Oil	82.84	81.42	82.02	82.79	1.74	1	0.06
Sunflower Oil	96.66	94.46	97.15	97.87	2.33	-0.5	-1.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Palm Oil	70	69.53	67.38	63.05	0.68	3.89	11.02
Potato	22.97	21.81	16.35	15.14	5.32	40.49	51.72
Onion	17.29	15.43	16.53	22.46	12.05	4.6	-23.02
Tomato	40.86	48.99	19.08	28.66	-16.6	114.15	42.57
Milk (per ltr.)	40.77	40.05	39.85	40.05	1.8	2.31	1.8

*Source:* State Civil Supplies Department.

### ***Statement-II***

*Steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of essential food items:*

#### **General Measure:**

1. National Consultation Meeting of Ministers of States and UTs in charge of Food and Consumer Affairs, on prices of food items was held on 21.5.2016 at New Delhi to take steps to keep prices of essential commodities including Pulses, Edible Oils etc. under control.
2. Advisory were issued to State Governments to take strict action against hoarding and black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
3. Regular review meeting on price and availability situation is being held at the highest level including at the level of Finance Minister, Committee of Secretaries, Inter-Ministerial Committee, Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee and other Departmental level review meetings.
4. Higher MSP has been announced so as to incentivize production and thereby enhance availability of food items which may help moderate prices.
5. A Plan Scheme titled Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is being implemented to regulate price volatility of agricultural commodities.

#### **Specific Measures: Pulses**

6. Export of all pulses is banned except Kabuli Channa and up to 10,000 MTs in organic pulses and lentils.
7. Import of pulses are allowed at zero import duty.
8. Stock limit on pulses extended till 30.9.2016.
9. MSP raised for kharif pulses of 2016-17 for Tur, Urad and Moong as well as for Rabi pulses of Gram and Masoor for season 2015-16.

10. Government has approved creation of buffer stock of pulses for effective market intervention. Procurement of around 1.75 lakh tonnes have already been made toward building the stock.
11. Government has released around 21,000 MT of pulses from the buffer stock (consisting of Tur and Urad) to States/UTs at subsidized rates for retailing by them at not more than ₹ 120/-per kg to improve availability and stabilise prices.
12. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has banned new contracts in Chana to dampen speculative activities in Chana and in respect of running contracts in Chana disallowed taking fresh positions to reduce speculative activities.
13. Strict vigilance by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence to prevent importers from mis-using the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility.
14. Setting up of a Group of Officers for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization etc.
15. About 1.38 lakh tonnes of pulses seized from 14650 raids and disposed of 1.27 lakh tonnes either by auction or other means permitted under EC Act, 1955.

#### **Edible Oils**

16. Export of edible oils in bulk is prohibited except coconut oil and other edible oils in branded consumer packs of up to 5 kg. is permitted with a minimum export price of USD 900 per MT.
17. MSP (including bonus) increased for various rabi and kharif oil seeds.

#### **Exorbitantly high prices of pulses**

621. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:

DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of pulses are exorbitantly high in the market;
- (b) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to curb the high price-rise of pulses, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the various reasons for the steep rise in prices of pulses; and