

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

(d) whether stringent action has been initiated against the hoarders and black marketeers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The price trend of the five major pulses over the last one year is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

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

(c) The recent rise in prices of pulses is mainly on account of shortfall in domestic production due to adverse weather conditions and increase in demand because of rise in population and per capita income and change in food habits. In addition, speculation, cartelization, black-marketing/hoarding also put pressure on prices.

(d) Yes, Sir. The details of raids, seizure and disposal of pulses are given in the Statement-III [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 618 Part (a) to (c)].

Statement-I*Price trend of the five major pulses over the last one year*

Items	All-India Daily Average Retail Prices of Pulses (Rs/kg)								
	Price As On	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	1 Year Ago	% Variation over			
	19.07.2016	19.06.2016	19.04.2016	19.01.2016	17.07.2015	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Gram Dal	95.63	80.49	67.75	67.45	60.05	18.81	41.15	41.78	59.25
Tur/Arhar Dal	139.56	140.77	138.71	145.9	98.68	-0.86	0.61	-4.35	41.43
Urad Dal	151.72	151.89	141.81	139	99.51	-0.11	6.99	9.15	52.47
Moong Dal	97.04	99.06	101.36	105.36	98.29	-2.04	-4.26	-7.9	-1.27
Masoor Dal	86.29	84.02	82.38	83.48	81.95	2.7	4.75	3.37	5.3

Source: States/UTs Food and Civil Supplies Deptts.