

**Price rise of food items and vegetables**

71. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the prices of food items, including vegetables, have risen abnormally and are beyond the reach of lower-middle-class category;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the specific reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action Government has taken to curb the price rise and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) All India Daily Average Retail Prices of 22 essential food items including vegetables (Potato, Onion and Tomatoes) for initial months of current year and last two years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

Prices of food items including vegetables are *inter alia* affected by mismatch in demand and supply, shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions and seasonality, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities, artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing, etc.

(c) Government has taken various measures from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items which, *inter alia*, include appropriately utilizing trade and fiscal policy instruments like import and export duty, Minimum Export Price, export restrictions, etc. to regulate domestic availability and moderate prices; imposition of stock limits and advising States for effective action against hoarders and black marketers and, provision of higher Minimum Support Prices to incentivize farmers for increasing production. Government is also implementing Schemes which, *inter alia*, include Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), etc. for increasing agricultural production and productivity through appropriate interventions. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has also formulated a new scheme “Operation Greens” for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain which, *inter alia*, has the objective of price stabilization for producers and consumers by proper production planning in the TOP clusters and introduction of dual use varieties. These policy interventions by Government had ensured that prices of the majority of essential food items monitored by Department of

Consumer Affairs (DoCA) have remained relatively stable over the period and with no major price rise.

***Statement***

*All India Annual Average Retail Prices of 22 essential food items monitored by  
Department of Consumer Affairs*

(Unit: in ₹/kg)

Commodity	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*
Rice	29.57	30.09	30.64
Wheat	23.75	24.74	26.06
Atta (Wheat)	26.08	26.80	27.75
Gram Dal	80.00	65.11	65.24
Tur/Arhar Dal	78.66	71.17	77.44
Urad Dal	85.33	70.23	72.07
Moong Dal	76.24	74.03	77.65
Masoor Dal	66.81	61.33	61.93
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	129.18	125.80	127.28
Mustard Oil (Packed)	106.04	106.81	108.41
Vanaspati (Packed)	78.09	80.73	80.39
Soya Oil (Packed)	85.62	90.29	92.04
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	93.13	97.33	99.03
Palm Oil (Packed)	71.14	77.13	75.15
Potato	15.11	19.35	16.47
Onion	27.27	19.18	16.61
Tomato	32.77	22.32	29.23
Sugar	42.38	38.26	38.15
Gur	44.98	42.71	43.07
Milk@	41.91	42.53	43.36
Tea Loose	204.46	209.46	211.78
Salt Pack (Iodised)	15.11	15.28	15.32

\*Average price during April-May in 2019-20

Source: - State Civil Supplies Deptt.