

(b) whether the role of hoarders and black marketeers in increasing the price of the essential food items has come to the notice of Government during the last one year, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/being taken by Government in the country, including in Kerala, to stabilise the prices of essential food items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) National Consultation Meetings (NCMs) of Ministers of States/UTs, in-charge of Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs was organised by the Union Government on 03.09.2019 in which an Action Plan was adopted. The Action Plan *inter alia* addresses measures for control of price rise and ensure availability of essential food commodities to the people. In addition Union Government also issues advisory to State Governments from time to time to control prices of food items like Onion, Tomato, Pulses etc.

(b) No Sir, no such incident has been reported.

(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 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 marketeers ; 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), 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 viz. pulses, onion, and potato.

Inflation of food items

731. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

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

(a) whether retail inflation of food items including edible oils, onion and other vegetables have reached the highest in the last six years during the month of December, 2019 and January, 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof, food item-wise; and

(c) the details of measures taken to curb food inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) Details of food inflation based on Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), brought out by M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for the last six years from January, 2014 to December, 2019 are given in Statement (*See* below).

(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 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.

Statement

Consumer Food Price Index

Month	Years					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
January	9.68	6.14	6.85	0.61	4.70	-2.24
February	7.89	6.88	5.30	2.01	3.26	-0.73
March	8.64	6.14	5.21	2.01	2.81	0.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
April	9.21	5.11	6.40	0.61	2.80	1.10
May	8.89	4.80	7.47	-1.05	3.10	1.83
June	7.21	5.48	7.79	-2.12	2.91	2.25
July	8.85	2.15	8.35	-0.36	1.30	2.36
August	8.70	2.20	5.91	1.52	0.29	2.99
September	6.22	3.88	3.96	1.25	0.51	5.11
October	3.88	5.25	3.32	1.90	-0.86	7.89
November	1.13	6.07	2.03	4.35	-2.61	10.01
December	3.96	6.40	1.37	4.96	-2.65	14.12(P)

P - Provisional.

Source: MoSPI.

Linking of Aadhaar with ration cards

732. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the exact coverage of Aadhaar linking with ration cards and availability of ePoS in percentage terms in Bihar, till date, in the context of "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme;

(b) by what time Government expects to fully complete Aadhaar linkage with ration cards and availability of ePoS across the country; and

(c) whether Government would also consider including distress migration as a criteria under the "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (c) In Bihar nearly 76% ration cards under NFSA have been linked with Aadhaar of at least one member of the beneficiary household and ePoS devices have been installed in about 96% FPSs of the State. Whereas, at the national level almost 90% ration cards under NFSA have been seeded with Aadhaar of at least one member of the household and about 88% FPSs are having ePoS devices for distribution of the highly subsidised foodgrains.