

Food inflation

3123. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the 14.12 per cent retail food inflation which is a six year high;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for the reduction of food prices?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Details of retail 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 and January and February, 2020 of the current year 2020 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Prices of food items are *inter-alia* affected by mismatch in demand and supply, shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, 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 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 (Oilseeds and Oil Palm), 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	2020
January	9.68	6.14	6.85	0.61	4.70	-2.24	13.63
February	7.89	6.88	5.30	2.01	3.26	-0.73	10.81(P)
March	8.64	6.14	5.21	2.01	2.81	0.30	
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	14.19	

Source: MoSPI,

P – Provisional

Financial crisis in co-operative sugar mills in Chhattisgarh

†3124. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that four co-operative sugar mills are operational in Chhattisgarh State which are allowed to sell sugar as domestic sale quota prescribed by the Central Government;

(b) whether Government is also aware that the purchase of essential sugar under public distribution system has been decided to be made from the State Co-operative Sugar Mills by Government of Chhattisgarh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.