

Impact of COVID-19 on NFSA beneficiaries

731. DR. SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which COVID-19 has impacted the lives of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries;
- (b) the number of NFSA beneficiaries who have been adversely affected by COVID-19 due to lack of supply of foodgrains; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to alleviate the suffering of NFSA beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (c) The Government took timely proactive measures to ensure that NFSA beneficiaries do not get adversely affected by Covid-19 due to lack of supply of foodgrains. Under the Pradhan Mantri - Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), to ameliorate the hardship faced by the poor due to economic disruption caused by Corona Virus, it was decided by the Government to provide additional allocation of foodgrains @ 5 kg. per person per month free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Priority Households) including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for a period of 3 months *i.e.* April to June, 2020. In this package, about 121 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT), later revised to approximately 119.32 LMT, of foodgrains were allotted to approximately 80.96 crore beneficiaries. Later on, Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his address to the nation on 30.06.2020, announced extension of said package for a further period of 5 months *i.e.* July to November, 2020. Accordingly, allocation of 201 LMT for these five months was made to all the States/UTs for distribution amount 80.43 crore beneficiaries. The benefits under PMGKAY are over and above the monthly NFSA entitlement.

Rise in price of essential food items

732. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that price of essential food items has risen sharply during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the increase/decrease in price of essential food items from March, 2020 to August, 2020, month-wise and item-wise; and

(c) the details of steps Government would take to bring down prices of food items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) Monthly Average of retail prices in respect of 22 essential commodities monitored by Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) from March, 2020 to August, 2020 indicating the increase in retail prices is given in the 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. Government also implements Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato.

Statement

Monthly average of retail prices in respect of 22 essential commodities

Department of Consumer Affairs (Price Monitoring Division)

(Unit: ₹/Kg.)

Commodities	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20
Rice	33.34	34.07	34.09	34.34	34.21	34.54
Wheat	28.81	29.10	28.94	28.49	28.12	28.23
Atta (Wheat)	30.12	31.20	31.37	31.37	31.20	31.11
Gram Dal	65	69.01	68.26	66.57	66.48	66.36

Commodities	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20
Tur/Arhar Dal	87.24	94.53	94.73	92.96	93.14	93.03
Urad Dal	97.49	104.03	104.40	101.76	100.15	98.71
Moong Dal	98.56	108.61	111.01	108.94	106.92	103.52
Masoor Dal	67.22	72.96	76.23	76.61	76.70	77.35
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	137.8	143.80	146.56	147.96	149.25	149.23
Mustard Oil (Packed)	117	117.95	118.25	119.94	122.09	124.48
Vanaspati (Packed)	88.12	89.93	90.48	90.96	90.84	91.38
Soya Oil (Packed)	98.06	101.07	101.38	101.04	101.78	102.20
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	106.1	109.60	110.87	111.61	112.86	113.15
Palm Oil (Packed)	87.21	89.26	88.27	88.49	89.53	91.13
Potato	23.06	26.43	25.82	27.16	30.59	33.25
Onion	31.2	28.02	21.66	20.62	21.53	22.63
Tomato	21.25	22.37	19.46	24.46	48.18	45.77
Sugar	39.05	40.09	39.85	39.72	40.20	40.21
Gur	45.62	47.07	47.93	47.86	48.36	49.24
Milk (₹/Ltr.)	45.58	46.27	46.72	46.88	47.11	47.00
Tea Loose	217.2	218.82	217.93	219.59	220.88	223.98
Salt Pack (Iodised)	15.88	16.14	16.09	16.33	16.37	16.30

**Allocation and distribution of foodgrains and gram under Atmanirbhar
Bharat package**

733. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation of foodgrains and gram under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains and gram allocated to each State and the quantity of foodgrains and gram lifted by them;