

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) to (c) As per the Estimates of Gross Domestic Product for the First Quarter (Q1) of 2020-21 released by the National Statistical Office on 31st August 2020, the real GDP in India contracted by 23.9 per cent during the first quarter of 2020-21. GDP growth data for the April-June quarter in other countries confirms a significant world-wide year-on-year contraction of output resulting from COVID-19 pandemic. GDP contraction in economies of US, UK, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Euro Area and Japan was 9.1 per cent, 21.7 per cent, 18.9 per cent, 22.1 per cent, 17.7 per cent, 11.3 per cent, 14.7 per cent and 10.1 per cent respectively.

India's GDP contraction in the first quarter is a result of Government imposing a strict 21 days nationwide lockdown from 25th March, 2020, under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, with subsequent extensions and relaxations, to contain the spread of COVID-19 while ramping up the health infrastructure in the country. This lockdown enforced by India was one of the most stringent lockdowns in the world as reflected in the Government Response Stringency Index measured by Oxford University. The contraction in GDP in April to June quarter is consistent with the effect of the stringent lockdown.

Rise in retail inflation

997. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the average retail inflation from the period of August 2019 to August 2020, the details thereof;

(b) the retail inflation from the period of August 2019 to August 2020, the details thereof, month wise; and

(c) the details of commodities that are responsible for the rise in retail inflation, the details thereof, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) The average and month-wise retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index-combined (CPI-C) released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) from the period of August 2019 to August 2020 is given in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Inflation based on CPI-C from August 2019 to August 2020 (in per cent)

Month	Aug- 19	Sep- 19	Oct- 19	Nov- 19	Dec- 19	Jan- 20	Feb- 20	Mar- 20	Apr- 20	May- 20	Jun- 20	Jul- 20	Aug- 20*	Average*
Inflation	3.28	3.99	4.62	5.54	7.35	7.59	6.58	5.84	@	@	6.23	6.73	6.69	5.86

* Provisional

@ CPI-C inflation not released in the month of April & May, 2020 by MoSPI due to data inadequacy.

Source: MoSPI

(c) The recent rise in CPI-C inflation is mainly on account of increase in inflation of food commodities. The details of Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) inflation is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Inflation based on CFPI from August 2019 to August 2020 (in per cent)

	Aug- 19	Sep- 19	Oct- 19	Nov- 19	Dec- 19	Jan- 20	Feb- 20	Mar- 20	April- 20	May- 20	Jun- 20	Jul- 20	Aug- 20*
CFPI	2.99	5.11	7.89	10.01	14.19	13.63	10.81	8.76	@	9.20	8.72	9.27	9.05

* Provisional

@ CFPI inflation not released in the month of April, 2020 by MoSPI due to data inadequacy.

Source: MoSPI

Pending GST dues of the States

998. DR. SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the Union Government is planning to transfer the pending GST dues to the States; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in transferring the pending GST dues to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) As per provisions in Section 7 of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 loss of revenue to the States shall be calculated and compensation for loss of revenue to the State shall be provisionally calculated and released at the end of every two months' period and shall be finally calculated for every financial year after receipt of final revenue figures as audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, for 5 years. For providing such compensation to the States, compensation cess is being levied on certain luxury and demerit goods as per provisions in Section