

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**  
**Department of Consumer Affairs**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*135**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

**RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES**

\*135 SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether it is fact that there is a sharp increase in the prices of edible oil and pulses over the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the economy is witnessing a sharp slowdown and houses are combating reduced salaries, joblessness and uncertainty against the backdrop of second wave of COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking to control the prices of essential items?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF**  
**CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.\*135 FOR 30.07.2021 REGARDING RISE IN PRICES OF  
ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.**

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(a) & (b) : Monthly year-on-year increase in the retail prices of edible oils and pulses in the Financial Year (FY) 2021-22 over the corresponding period in FY 2020-21 are given at **Annexure.**

(c) : Economies the world over have witnessed slowdown due to Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Government has been responsive to the situation with several relief packages due to which India has shown signs of rapid recovery growth. To ensure food security to the people, the Government is providing 5 kg free food grains per person per month to about 80 crore NFSA beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) from May to November 2021. Under this special scheme, NFSA beneficiaries are provided with an additional quota of free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) at a scale of 5 Kg per person per month, over and above their regular monthly entitlements.

(d) : International prices of several essential items are showing increasing trends, particularly in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The Government has responded with several measures such as:

In order to ensure effective intervention during price rise through utilisation of buffer stocks, the Government has procured pulses in 2020-21 and 2021-22 from farmers/farmers' associations. These pulses stocks are subsequently utilised for cooling down prices through supply to states and disposal through Open Market sales. Pulses from the buffer were used very effectively during the Covid-19 pandemic for supplying @ 1 kg per household per month free of cost to approx. 19 cr. NFSA beneficiary households between April and November 2020.

Further, the Government imposed stock limits on some pulses under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in July 2021, which has had a salutary effect in terms of softening of prices. The order has made it mandatory for stockholder entities to declare their stock position on the portal of the Department of Consumer Affairs, and to bring the stocks down to the prescribed limit within 30 days, in case the stock held by them exceeds the limit.

Continuing with the proactive measures to augment domestic availability of pulses, changes have been made in the import policy by shifting Tur, Urad and Moong from restricted category to free category for the period from 15th May 2021 to 31st October 2021.

Thereafter, basic import duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess on Masur have been brought down to zero and 10% respectively.

Additionally, 5-year MoUs have been signed with Myanmar for annual import of 2.5 LMT of Urad and 1 LMT of Tur, and with Malawi for annual import of 0.50 LMT of Tur. Further, the MoU with Mozambique for annual import of 2 LMT Tur has been extended for another 5 years.

To soften the prices of edible oils, the duty on Crude Palm Oil (CPO) has been cut by 5% from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 until 30th September 2021. This reduction has brought down the effective tax rate on CPO to 30.25% from the earlier 35.75%.

Further, the duty on Refined palm oil/Palmolein has been reduced to 37.5% from 45%.

A revised import policy for Refined Bleached Deodorized (RBD) Palm Oil and RBD Palmolein has been put in place from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 under which these items have been removed from restricted to free category.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) and (b) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*135 FOR 30.07.2021 REGARDING “RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES”****Monthly Year-on-Year Increase in Retail Prices of Edible Oil and Pulses in 2021-22**

Commodity	Percentage increase/Decrease (-) in Retail Prices in 2021-22 over 2020-21 (in %)			
	April	May	June	July*
<b>Edible oil</b>				
Groundnut oil	18.68	19.86	20.90	19.24
Mustard Oil	31.74	40.18	42.30	39.03
Vanaspati	38.83	42.61	45.75	46.01
Soya Oil	37.31	47.36	51.02	48.07
Sunflower Oil	47.14	53.64	55.11	51.62
Palm Oil	39.70	49.67	49.54	44.42
<b>Pulses</b>				
Gram dal	8.53	12.76	15.22	13.00
Tur dal	13.19	14.48	15.54	13.43
Urad dal	5.90	5.16	7.02	6.53
Moong dal	-1.63	-3.39	-3.13	-3.59
Masur dal	13.12	11.61	13.47	13.26

\* Upto 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

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