

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1687
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2024

Rise in Food Prices

1687. SHRI. M. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that food prices are on the increase, leading to urban households facing the sharp impact;
- (b) if so, the measures taken to control the price rise; and
- (c) the efforts made to bring down the prices of vegetables, cereals, pulses, eggs and fruits, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a): Variations in prices of food items consumed by urban households are captured by the movements in the Urban Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), published by the Central Statistics Office. From January-March 2024 quarter to April-June 2024 quarter, the urban-CFPI increased only by 2.8 per cent.

(b) & (c): The Government has taken various steps to control the prices of food items and make them affordable to consumers. To augment the supply in the market, the Government is offloading wheat and rice from the central pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme. Retail sales of wheat flour, rice, chana dal, and moong dal are undertaken at subsidised prices through specified outlets. Buffer stocks are maintained for pulses and onions from which periodic open market releases are made. To prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, the Government imposed stock limits on wheat, tur and desi chana. The Government also reduced the GST rates on various essential items from time to time. Besides, the Union Budget 2024-25 has proposed to develop large-scale clusters for vegetable production close to major consumption centres and to promote farmer-producer organizations, cooperatives and start-ups for vegetable supply chains.
