

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2026
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.03.2020

PRICES OF VEGETABLES

2026. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken any serious steps to reduce the prices of essential items like vegetables particularly onion across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has imported onion from various countries and the same has not been sold in the market because people has not shown any interest to buy these imported onion due to its poor quality;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total amount spent to import the said onion from abroad?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री दानवे रावसाहेब दादाराव)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

(a) & (b) : Government has taken several steps to curb price rise in essential items like vegetables particularly onion across the country, as detailed at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d) : Based on the direction of the Union Government, MMTC contracted import of 41,950 metric tonnes (MT) of onions against which import of about 35,857 MT onions materialized. As on 27.02.2020, about 26,400 MT onions have been disposed off by NAFED and MMTC.

(e) : As on 27.02.2020, an amount of ₹220.50 crores is released to MMTC during 2019-20 from Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) for import of the said onions.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2026 FOR 03.03.2020 REGARDING PRICES OF VEGETABLES.

Recent Steps taken by Government to control Rise in Prices of Onion

- I. During 2019-20, buffer stock of about 57,373 MT Rabi onion created and distributed to State Governments, other Central / State agencies, Cooperatives and also sold in various mandis through open auction.
- II. The benefit to exporters of onions under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was withdrawn through notification dated 11.06.2019.
- III. Minimum Export Price (MEP) of \$850/MT was imposed on 13.09.2019.
- IV. On 29th September, 2019, export of onions was banned.
- V. Stock limits on onions were imposed on traders across the country under EC Act.
- VI. All States/UTs advised to indicate their demand for onion at several forums/ levels including through National Consultative Meeting (NCM), video conferences and written communications.
- VII. State Governments requested to hold regular meetings with the traders of Onions at State and District level to prevent hoarding, speculative trading and profiteering, unfair and illegal trade practices like cartelling, etc.
- VIII. Onions from the buffer stock were supplied to State Governments of Haryana, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh at no-profit no-loss basis.
- IX. During July-Oct./Nov., 2019, onions were supplied at about Rs.15.60/kg from the buffer stock for direct retailing in Delhi-NCR through Mother Dairy, NCCF, NAFED and Govt. of NCT of Delhi at reasonable prices (Rs.23.90/kg max.) to the consumers.
- X. During Nov-Dec., 2019, NAFED was directed to undertake procurement of surplus Kharif onions from major producing States and its distribution/ supply to deficit/ consuming States.
- XI. To facilitate imports, fumigation norms for imported onions were relaxed by DACFW and importers were exempted from stock limits for imported stocks by DoCA.
- XII. MMTC directed to import onion under Price Stabilization Fund scheme and improve availability of onion in the country.
- XIII. During Dec. 15, 2019 to end-January,2020, MMTC imported about 35,857 MT onions on direction of Government.
- XIV. States requested to place demand for imported onions through several video conferences and written communications.
- XV. Imported onions supplied to States/ UTs as per their demand as well as being disposed in the market/mandi/online portal at prevailing rates to improve availability and help moderate its prices.