

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 314
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024

PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

314. COM. SELVARAJ V: SHRI SUBBARAYAN K:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of essential commodities particularly the food items like vegetables, edible oils, pulses etc. has been on the rise for the last few months;
- (b) if so, the details of the prices of essential commodities month-wise during the year 2023 and 2024 so far; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to control the prices of essential commodities in the country?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री बी.एल. वर्मा)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) & (b) : The all-India average retail prices groundnut oil, vanaspati, sunflower oil, soya oil, palm oil, moong dal and masur dal as on 19.07.2024 have declined on a month-on-month basis. The all-India average retail prices of onion, potato, tomato, mustard oil, gram dal, tur dal and urad dal have increased on a month-on-month basis. Monthly average retail prices of 22 food commodities during 2023 and 2024 are given at **Annexure**.

(c) : The Government takes, from time to time, various measures to control the prices of essential commodities. In order to control the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities, the Government set up Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) for strategic market interventions. Under PSF, buffer stock of pulses and onion has been maintained for price stabilization. The procurement for the buffer gives support to farmers and calibrated release of stocks from the buffer are undertaken to cool down prices.

In order to make dal, atta and rice available to consumer at affordable prices, the Government introduced Bharat Dal, Bharat Atta and Bharat Rice. Bharat Dal has been launched in July, 2023 by converting Chana stock in the PSF into Chana dal for retail disposal. The Bharat Chana Dal is made available to the consumers at subsidized rates of Rs.60 per kg for 1 kg pack and Rs.55 per kg for 30 kg pack. About 11.37 lakh MT of Bharat Chana Dal has been sold to retail consumers till 19.07.2024. The Bharat Dal has been extended to include Bharat Moong Dal, Masur dal.

Retail sale of Bharat Atta and Bharat Rice was launched for increasing supplies in the market at affordable rates and helping in continued moderation of prices of these food items. Bharat Atta and Bharat Rice were sold at subsidized rates of Rs.27.50 per kg and Rs.29/kg., respectively with the subsidies being borne from the Price Stabilisation Fund.

The Government has procured about 4.24 lakh tons Rabi-2024 onions under PSF, till date, for subsequent release in the market during the lean months to stabilize prices.

In order to augment domestic availability, import of Tur and Urad under 'Free' regime has been allowed till 31st March 2025 and the import duty on Masur has been reduced to zero till 31st March, 2025. Import of Yellow peas has been allowed from 8th December, 2023 till 31st October 2024 to augment supply of pulses. Further, the import of desi Chana at zero duty has been allowed from 4th May, 2024 till 31st March 2025.

In order to control the rise in prices of onion, the Government took series of action. In August, 2023 export duty of 40% was imposed to enhanced domestic availability. When export surged against increasing international prices, MEP of US \$ 800 per MT was imposed in October, 2023 and then prohibition of onion export from December, 2023. Thereafter, export had been allowed from 4th May, 2024 with 40% duty and MEP of US \$ 550 USD to ensure domestic availability of onion and keep prices under control. To ensure sufficient availability of sugar for domestic consumers at reasonable price, the export of sugar has been kept under 'restriction' till further orders.

To prevent hoarding, stock limits have been imposed on Tur and desi Chana from 21st June 2024 till 30th September 2024. In order to manage the overall food security and to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, the Government imposed stock limits on wheat from 24th June 2024 till 31st March 2025.

Price control measures taken by Government together with robust progress in sown area under Kharif pulses this year (2024-25) have stabilised the market and the prices of Chana, Tur and Urad in major mandis had declined by up to 4% in past one month.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 314 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024 REGARDING PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

All-India Average Monthly Retail Prices of 22 Food Commodities

(Rs/Kg)

Commodities	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
Rice	38.09	38.63	38.82	39.04	39.22	39.74	40.73	41.5	42.17	42.59	43.03	43.38	43.62	44.1	44.28	44.35	44.5	44.85
Wheat	32.79	33.21	32.21	31.32	31.27	31.67	31.96	32.31	32.66	32.93	33.64	33.72	33.76	33.88	33.69	33.51	33.49	33.67
Atta (Wheat)	37.51	37.8	37.07	36.55	36.42	36.95	37.18	37.71	38.08	38.31	38.98	38.98	38.93	38.98	38.91	38.77	38.7	38.75
Gram Dal	72.49	72.36	72.6	73.33	73.97	74.47	74.8	76.39	80.48	82.42	83.45	83.43	82.83	82.85	83.6	83.84	84.93	87.62
Tur/Arhar Dal	111.46	111.65	113.47	116.44	119.24	126.89	134.13	138.09	146.29	151.63	155.2	154.68	150.47	149.1	149.2	150.93	155.11	161.11
Urad Dal	107.13	106.72	107.17	108.21	109.33	111.46	113.63	115.03	117.22	118.95	122.37	123.04	122.54	123.1	123.8	124.22	125.38	126.75
Moong Dal	103.44	104.22	105.06	107.1	108.36	109.36	110.49	111.29	113.63	115.56	116.54	116.48	116.13	116.4	117.2	117.6	118.03	118.81
Masoor Dal	94.19	93.13	92.78	92.96	92.59	92.01	92	92.02	93.41	94.14	94.25	94.11	93.66	93.5	93.4	93.33	93.42	94.16
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	189.54	188.82	189.18	190.52	190.77	190.7	191.14	191.9	192.19	192.42	193.02	192.27	190.88	189.7	189.1	188.98	188.55	188.42
Mustard Oil (Packed)	173.92	171.15	167.27	163.21	159.47	154.23	150.97	150.92	149.87	148.38	148.73	148.05	146.63	146	145.7	145.62	145.56	147.12
Vanaspati (Packed)	138.63	136.72	135	132.87	132.26	131.01	129.72	129.26	128.35	126.98	126.76	126.08	125.12	124.8	125.1	125.84	126.22	126.23
Soya Oil (Packed)	153.54	151.02	148.21	144.91	141.1	136.84	134.37	133.35	131.11	128.57	128.24	127.97	126.85	126.7	126.8	127.71	127.36	127.1
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	172.82	168.69	164.65	160.91	156.56	151.4	147.84	146.53	144.41	141.86	140.44	139.96	139.01	138.4	137.9	138.47	138.12	137.92
Palm Oil (Packed)	118.23	115.51	115.42	114.81	113.26	110.53	109.03	108.3	107.36	105.66	104.99	104.32	103.36	103.2	104	105.9	105.24	104.73
Potato	23.21	20.86	19.13	19.13	20.46	21.63	23.65	24.29	24.32	24.42	24.95	24.01	22.67	22.01	23.35	26.45	28.95	31.61
Onion	26.97	25.41	23.27	22.3	21.97	22.9	26.51	29.86	33.38	37.26	58.99	50.95	37.95	32.79	32.66	31.47	31.46	36.33
Tomato	24.72	23.45	23.32	23.16	23.61	32.58	109.5	102.02	38.81	29.3	39.48	38.38	32.43	32.32	31.67	32.4	32.72	42.23
Sugar	41.83	41.72	41.61	41.92	42.38	42.72	42.99	43.18	43.57	43.96	44.62	44.68	44.53	44.42	44.28	44.33	44.57	44.79
Gur	48.44	48.2	48.34	48.7	49.28	50.36	51.28	51.9	52.75	53.11	53.14	52.59	52.6	52.61	52.48	52.68	53.2	54.02
Milk (Rs./Ltr.)	55.77	55.98	56.33	56.7	57.04	57.48	57.78	57.97	58.21	58.36	58.38	58.34	58.44	58.47	58.56	58.67	58.71	59.03
Tea Loose	276.5	274.54	275.11	275.66	274.56	275.8	276.38	277.64	277.62	278.09	279.5	279	279.92	280.5	280.2	279.67	279.65	278.07
Salt Pack (Iodised)	21.47	21.66	21.72	21.9	21.95	21.92	22.04	22.26	22.27	22.34	22.38	22.46	22.46	22.47	22.46	22.48	22.44	22.51
