

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3847(OIH)  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

**PRICE RISE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES**

3847. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:  
(OIH)

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

- whether any steps have been taken by the Government to check price rise of essential commodities like grains, pulses, vegetables and cooking gas;
- if so, the details thereof along with the policies implemented in this regard; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

**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) to (c) : Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily retail and wholesale prices of selected essential food commodities, submitted by the 555 price monitoring centres that have been set up with Central assistance by the State Governments and UT Administrations across the country. The daily report of prices and indicative price trends are duly analysed for taking appropriate decisions such as release of stocks from the buffer, stock disclosure by stockholding entities, imposition of stock limits, changes in trade policy instruments like rationalisation of import duty, changes in import quota, restrictions on exports of the commodity etc.

In order to tackle the volatility in prices, the government maintains buffer stocks of pulses and onion for market interventions through calibrated and targeted release to moderate the prices in the market. As a measure of direct intervention in the retail market, part of the stock of pulses from the buffer are converted into dals for retail sale to the consumers at affordable prices under the Bharat Dal brand. Similarly, atta and rice are distributed to retail consumers under Bharat brand at subsidized prices. Onion from the buffer are released in a calibrated and targeted manner to moderate prices in high price consuming centres at wholesale markets and through retail outlets. Onion is distributed among retail consumers at Rs.35 per kg through stationary retail outlets and mobile vans in major consumption centres. These measures have helped in making essential food commodities such as pulses, rice, atta and onion available to consumers at affordable prices and also in stabilising the prices.

In order to ensure accessibility and availability of foodgrains for the poor, the government has decided to provide free foodgrains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for a period of next five years with effect from 1st January, 2024, as per their entitlement (i.e. 35 kg of foodgrains per month per AAY household and 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month in case of Priority Household).

India imports about 60% of the domestic LPG consumed. Price of LPG in the country is linked to its price in the international market. Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer for domestic LPG. Average Saudi CP (international benchmark for LPG pricing) rose by 64% (from US\$ 385/MT in July 2023 to US\$ 632 /MT in November 2024) while on the other hand effective price for Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY) consumers for domestic LPG reduced in India by 44% (from Rs. 903 in August 2023 to Rs. 503 in November 2024).

Government reduced the retail selling price of domestic LPG by Rs. 200 per 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder with effect from 30th August, 2023 and by Rs.100 per 14.2 Kg cylinder with effect from 9th March, 2024. The retail selling price of a 14.2 Kg domestic LPG cylinder is currently Rs 803 in Delhi. After a targeted subsidy of Rs.300/cylinder to PMUY consumers, Government of India is providing 14.2 Kg LPG cylinders at an effective price of Rs.503 per cylinder (in Delhi). This is available to more than 10.33 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries, across the country. A few State Governments are providing some additional subsidy on LPG refills and bear the additional cost from their respective budgets.

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