

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.684
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH DECEMBER, 2017

RISE IN PRICES OF VEGETABLES

684. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ऋãŒããÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ããããè be pleased to state:

- whether there is a sharp rise in prices of vegetables, food items and other essential commodities during the last few months inspite of better monsoon, if so, the reasons therefor;
- whether it is a fact that the prices of tomatoes and onions in wholesale and retail markets have increased exorbitantly during the last few months;
- if so, the details thereof indicating the rise in prices in terms of percentage; and
- the long term and short-term measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the prices of vegetables and other agricultural commodities so as to bring them within the reach of the common man?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

ऋãŒããÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ããããè ½ããã ½ããã ½ããã (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): As per the data available with the Government, there is no significant change in the prices of food items and other essential commodities during the last few months. However, an inflation of 22.48% has been observed for vegetables (Source: CSO press release dated 12.12.17).

Prices of fruits and vegetables sometimes increase on account of crop seasonality and unfavorable weather conditions.

(b) & (c): It is true that there is a spike in the prices of onion in past three months in the wholesale and retail market. However, the spike in prices is primarily on account of around 30% less sowing of onions during kharif season owing to less rainfall in the southern States and also due to unseasonal rains in Maharashtra which damaged the onion seedlings. The prices of tomato have been broadly similar during the corresponding period and have in fact declined marginally.

The variation in prices of tomato and onion in wholesale and retail over past 3 months is as under:

Crop	% variation over 3 months	
	Wholesale Price	Retail Price
Tomato	-8.46	-4.54
Onion	75.78	65.24

(Source: Department of Consumer Affairs)

(d): Steps taken by Government to control the prices of fruits and vegetables are as follows:

- The Govt. is implementing the scheme called electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) to lower transaction costs to buyers and stable prices and availability to consumers.
- Farmers are mobilized into Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for aggregation and economies of scale. Efforts are being made to link FPOs to market by way of direct marketing farmer consumer markets/ Apni Mandi and e-markets.
- Assistance is provided for development of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure such as cold storages, ripening chamber, pack houses, reefer vehicles, primary and wholesale markets, Kisan Mandies, etc.
- Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural commodities which are perishable in nature and are not covered under Price Support Scheme.

Recently, considering the rise in prices of onions, Government has taken the following steps:

1. Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD \$850 per MT imposed on onion.
2. Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) has enabled States to impose stock limit on onions till 31.12.2017. Producing States were advised to take action against hoarders/traders engaging in illegal practices and ensure adequate availability of onions in the markets at reasonable prices to the consumers. Government of Uttar Pradesh has recently imposed stock limit on onion wholesalers.
3. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) and Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) were directed to procure 10,000 MT and 2,000 MT respectively from producing regions. In addition, producing States have been requested to procure onions through their agencies and supply them to Delhi to help moderate their prices. The onion is being retailed through SAFAL, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) and also through auction in mandies to improve availability and moderate prices.
4. Government of NCT of Delhi has been requested to facilitate the distribution of onions through their channels to ensure availability at reasonable prices.
