

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2799
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021**

RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES INCLUDING EDIBLE OILS

2799 SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: SMT. CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

(OIH)

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of edible oils and essential commodities have increased drastically after COVID-19 lockdown period due to which consumers are forced to bear the brunt of inflation;
- (b) details of increase in prices of essential commodities and edible oils during last three years;
- (c) details of steps taken to control inflation along with steps taken to improve the production of edible oils;
- (d) whether unlimited storage of foodgrains is permitted by amending the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in 2020; and
- (e) if so, whether companies are hoarding edible oils due to which prices of the same are increasing?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : The details of price trends of essential commodities including edible oils, as per Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) brought out by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is at **Annexure**.

(c) : Government has taken various measures from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items which, inter-alia, include appropriately utilizing trade and fiscal policy instruments like import duty, Minimum Export Price, export restrictions, etc. to regulate domestic availability and moderate prices; imposition of stock limits and advising States for effective action against hoarders & black marketers ; and, provision of higher Minimum Support Prices to incentivize farmers for increasing production.

To reduce the dependency on the import of edible oils through increase in production and productivity of oilseeds in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, National Food Security Mission (Oilseeds and Oilpalm) has been implemented in the country with effect from 2018-19. This mission comprises three sub-missions namely, NFSM-Oilseeds (25 States and 3 UTs), NFSM-Oilpalm (12 States) and NFSM-TBOs (7 States and 1 UTs) and it is being implemented through the State Department of Agriculture and Horticulture. A Special Programme on Rapeseed/Mustard has also been initiated in 10 States to increase the production.

(d) : No, Sir. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 provides that the supply of such foodstuffs, including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds and oil, may be regulated only under extraordinary circumstances which may include war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity of grave nature. Further, stock limit may be imposed if there is 100 percent increase in the retail price of horticultural produce; or 50 percent increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural foodstuff over the price prevailing immediately preceding one year or average retail price of last 5 years whichever is lower.

(e) : No such complaint has been received from any State/UT.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2799 FOR 19.03.2021 REGARDING RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES INCLUDING EDIBLE OILS.

Consumer Food Price Index and Edible Oils Inflation (%)															
Months	CFPI			Mustard Oil			Groundnut Oil			Coconut Oil			Refined Oil		
	2020-21	2019-20	2019-18	2020-21	2019-20	2019-18	2020-21	2019-20	2019-18	2020-21	2019-20	2019-18	2020-21	2019-20	2019-18
April	#	1.1	2.8	#	0.26	-0.68	#	4.6	-3.88	#	0.53	36.73	#	2.47	1.89
May	9.2	1.83	3.1	#	0.6	-0.26	#	5.35	-4.05	#	-1.07	35.3	#	2.38	2.81
June	8.72	2.25	2.91	10.54	0.17	0.34	16.56	6.67	-3.62	2.43	-4.37	33.21	12.83	1.75	3.45
July	9.27	2.36	1.3	13.38	-0.09	1.04	16.75	8.37	-3.71	2.89	-6.47	31.64	12.81	1.66	3.91
August	9.05	2.99	0.29	15.08	-0.77	2.35	15.5	8.85	-2.1	2.79	-6.29	29.32	12.35	1.04	4.91
September	10.68	5.11	0.51	16.98	-0.6	2	16.92	8.89	-0.28	2.28	-1.74	20.45	13.68	0.95	5.56
October	11	7.89	-0.86	18.99	-0.09	1.39	18.41	8.36	0.93	3.7	4.53	7.21	16.91	1.21	5.18
November	9.5	10.01	-2.61	23.51	0.86	0.78	19.98	7.46	2.61	6.77	6.64	-0.58	19.66	1.82	5
December	3.41	14.19	-2.65	26.05	1.02	0.77	21.33	6.82	4.01	10.97	5.87	-6.94	22.55	2.84	4.5
January	1.96	13.63	-2.24	24.66	5.57	0.34	21.42	8.78	4.3	10.83	2.55	-6.3	24.07	7.53	3.77
February	3.87(P)	10.81	-0.73	25.56(P)	6.85	0.43	23.04(P)	9.29	5.36	10.78(P)	0.49	-2.57	26.17(P)	8.46	4.04
March		8.76	0.3		#	0.26		#	4.97		#	-0.04		#	3.2

Remarks: '#' Items level indices were not published due to availability of inadequate price data during lockdown period of COVID-19 pandemic

P – Provisional, Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.