

Title: Regarding sharp rise in prices of Essential Commodities - laid

DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI (KALLAKURICHI): Sharp rise in prices of essential commodities along with the latest burden of steep hike in LPG and fuel rates have made life difficult for almost every section of the society across the country with people finding it hard to manage their household budget. The prices of vegetables and several other food items have gone through the roof in the past one month. The main reason for the price hike is that farmers do not get better prices due to lack of investment in cold storage, ware houses, processing & export. It is also observed that the essential commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 may aid farmers to get better prices by encouraging investment in the sector. Data says that the food inflation on Consumer Food Price Index increased from 1.1% to 14.19% from April. The prices of all essential items like tomato, ginger, cauliflower, brinjal, rice, dal, cooking oil etc have soared sky-high. In this regard, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu wrote a letter to Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, stating that there is a worrying trend in food inflation and urged the Central Government to take immediate steps to help the State Governments in fighting the increase in prices of essential food items.