

Title : Regarding rise in prices of food items-Laid

SHRI AMRA RAM (SIKAR): In September this year average price rise hit a nine-month high of 5.5 per cent. More significantly prices of food items crossed 9.2 per cent. A majority of Indians spend nearly half of their income on food. So, food inflation hurts the most. Among food items, vegetables in particular saw a staggering price rise with year-on-year price increases of 42.4 per cent for tomatoes, 66.2 per cent for onions, and 65.3 per cent for potatoes. These three are the most consumed vegetables, across the country. While the Government cites usual reasons of weather disruptions, the fact remains that every year, prices of some vegetables undergo an unbearable spike that has the effect of transferring crores of rupees from already strained family budgets to the coffers of big traders and wholesalers. Several other items of consumption too are seeing exorbitant price rise. One of them is cooking oils, which is partly attributable to the rise in crude palm oil prices by over 45 per cent in the past three months. Crude palm oil is used not only for processed food items but also for items like soaps and cosmetics.