

Regarding problems being faced by people due to rise in prices of essential commodities-laid

SHRI KHALILUR RAHAMAN (JANGIPUR): I wish to raise an urgent matter as a voice for millions of Indians struggling under the crushing weight of skyrocketing prices of essential commodities. This is not just an economic crisis but a human crisis, touching every household in our country. Picture a daily wage earner who now finds basic groceries beyond reach or a parent skipping meals to ensure their children can eat. Retail inflation hit 6.6% in October 2024, with food inflation at a worrying 7.68%. Prices of tomatoes soared by over 80% earlier this year, while cooking oil and pulses continue to strain family budgets. Global factors like the Russia-Ukraine war and supply chain disruptions play a role, but domestic challenges—climate-induced crop losses, insufficient regulation, and unchecked hoarding—worsen the crisis. These failures erode the dignity and security of our people. I urge immediate Government action to crack down on hoarders, strengthen buffer stocks, and support farmers to stabilize production. Investment in cold storage and infrastructure is essential to reduce waste and control prices. For millions waking up to uncertainty, let us show that we care and act decisively. Their welfare is not just our duty—it is the foundation of our nation's soul.