

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: The Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution laid a statement correcting the reply given on 19.12.2017 to starred question no. 55 by Sarvashri Hari Manjhi and P. Kumar, MP, regarding 'Rise in prices of Pulses'

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान) : महोदया, मैं (i) 'दालों के मूल्य में वृद्धि' के बारे में सर्वश्री हरि मांझी और पी. कुमार, संसद सदस्यों द्वारा पूछे गए तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 55 (अंग्रेजी संस्करण) के संबंध में 19 दिसम्बर, 2017 को दिए गए उत्तर में शुद्धि करने और (ii) उत्तर में शुद्धि करने में विलम्ब के कारण बताने वाला वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

Question	Answer already given	Corrected Answer on parts (c) to (e)
(1)	(2)	(3)
<p>(a) whether the prices of pulses have reportedly risen artificially leading to knee jerk reaction by the Central and State Governments and if so, the details thereof;</p> <p>(b) whether the Union Government is aware that artificial rise in prices of pulses was due to speculation and that pulse growers did not get remunerative price for their produce and if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that pulse growers are provided</p>	<p>(a) & (b): During November, 2017, the All-India Consumer Price Index for Pulses & Products fell by 23.53 percent, over the year. To facilitate remunerative prices to pulses growers, Government procures pulses directly from farmers at Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) under Price Support Scheme, when prices are below MSP. In addition, procurement of pulses from the farmers may also be undertaken under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) for Central buffer, at market</p>	<p>(c) to (e): Government is maintaining a dynamic buffer stock of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses through domestic procurement and import, for effective market intervention to stabilize their prices. The pulses from the buffer are released to State/UT Governments, Central Government Agencies and through strategic open market sale to manage prices, thereby helping to contain the gap between retail and wholesale prices. Government of India has also entered into a five-year</p>

remunerative price for their produce;

(c) whether the Union Government plans to bridge the gap between wholesale and retail prices of pulses like Arhar, Urad, Chana, Moong dal, etc. in the lean seasons and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any emergency planning between the States and other agencies, which keep buffer stock to stabilize prices of pulses in future and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of contingency plan to import these pulses from abroad to control their prices along with the details of import of these pulses during the current fiscal year?

prices or MSP, whichever is higher.

(c) to (e): Government is maintaining a dynamic buffer stock of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses through domestic procurement and import, for effective market intervention to stabilize their prices. The pulses from the buffer are released to State/UT Governments, Central Government Agencies and through strategic open market sale to manage prices, thereby helping to contain the gap between retail and wholesale prices. Government of India has also entered into a five-year (2016-17 to 2020-21) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Mozambique for promoting production and marketing of pulses. Under the MoU, Government would ensure import of pre-committed quantity of pulses from Mozambique, either through Government or private channels. In addition,

(2016-17 to 2020-21) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Mozambique for promoting production and marketing of pulses. Under the MoU, Government would ensure import of pre-committed quantity of pulses from Mozambique, either through Government or private channels. In addition, suitable and prompt amendments are made in the trade policy, taking cognizance of domestic production and availability, to ensure appropriate import of pulses. ***In the current financial year, Government has not imported pulses for the buffer till date.***

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REASONS FOR DELAY

The aforesaid mistake was detected by the Department of Consumer Affairs on 26.12.2017 after the reply was laid on the table of Lok Sabha. Therefore it took some time to process the matter for seeking approval of the Hon'ble Minister on the corrected version of the reply.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8404/16/18]