

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3123**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020**

**FOOD INFLATION**

3123. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the 14.12 per cent retail food inflation which is a six year high;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for the reduction of food prices?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF**  
**CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)**

(a) & (b) : Details of retail food inflation based on Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), brought out by M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for the last six years from January 2014 to December 2019 and January & February 2020 of the current year 2020 is at **Annexure**.

Prices of food items are inter-alia affected by mismatch in demand and supply, shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, seasonality, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities, artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing, etc.

(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. Government is also implementing Schemes which, inter alia, include Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (Oilseeds and Oil Palm), etc for increasing agricultural production and productivity through appropriate interventions. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3123 FOR 20.03.2020 REGARDING FOOD ITEMS.****Consumer Food Price Index**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Years</b>						
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>January</b>	9.68	6.14	6.85	0.61	4.70	-2.24	13.63
<b>February</b>	7.89	6.88	5.30	2.01	3.26	-0.73	10.81(P)
<b>March</b>	8.64	6.14	5.21	2.01	2.81	0.30	
<b>April</b>	9.21	5.11	6.40	0.61	2.80	1.10	
<b>May</b>	8.89	4.80	7.47	-1.05	3.10	1.83	
<b>June</b>	7.21	5.48	7.79	-2.12	2.91	2.25	
<b>July</b>	8.85	2.15	8.35	-0.36	1.30	2.36	
<b>August</b>	8.70	2.20	5.91	1.52	0.29	2.99	
<b>September</b>	6.22	3.88	3.96	1.25	0.51	5.11	
<b>October</b>	3.88	5.25	3.32	1.90	-0.86	7.89	
<b>November</b>	1.13	6.07	2.03	4.35	-2.61	10.01	
<b>December</b>	3.96	6.40	1.37	4.96	-2.65	14.19	

*Source: MoSPI, P – Provisional*

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