

**PRESS CONFERENCE BY HON'BLE MINISTER OF FOOD,
SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS, SH. HAROON YUSUF
ON 04.02.2010 AT 02.30 PM**

In the last six months we have witnessed unexpected price rise of various commodities particularly basic food items like sugar, pulses, wheat, rice & vegetable. It has been reported that the inflationary trend in food items has been to the extent of 20% over the last year and in spite of increased arrivals after the new crop has been harvested; the prices of pulses, sugar and vegetables have not abated. The wholesale price of sugar continues to hover around Rs 4200/Qtl and retail rate has touched Rs. 47-50 per kg. Similarly the whole sale price of arhar dal touched Rs. 6875 per qtl. In the month of January, 2010 and retail price remained Rs 80-88 per kg. The retail price of moong dal, urad and masoor dal have remained at a high of rs. 80-90 per kg.

Market Intervention Measures

The Department of Food Supplies has initiated various steps to check the inflationary trend of food items particularly pulse and atta by making market intervention through various agencies i.e. Kendriya Bhandar, Mother Dairy, NCCF, various Circle offices of the Food and Supply Deptt. and sale points given by MLAs

a) Sale of pulses at concessional rates

The Department of Food & Supplies started with the selling of 1 Kg. pack of Rajma, Moong washed, Arhar, Chana Dal & Chana Whole at the 70 Circles of the Food & Supplies Department and later on extended it to the all outlets of the Mother Dairy booths. The rate of

the pulses sold from Mother Dairy from time to time as well as fresh proposal is as under :--

S. No.	Name of the Pulses	Initial rate of pulses sold	Present rate of pulses sold	Proposed rates of dals to be sold
1.	Channa Dal	34	35	33
2.	Rajma Chitra	-	44	41
3.	Kala Channa	38	36	32
4.	Kabuli Channa	50	50	46
5.	Arhar Dal	75	-	66
6.	Urad Dal washed	49	-	58
7.	Urad whole	-	-	47
7.	Moong washed	58	-	82
8.	Masoor Malka (Lal)			55
9.	Masoor Malka (Kali)			46

Note:-- A total quantity of 1040 MT have been sold in last six months.

The quality of pulses vis-à-vis the rates have been appreciated by one and all as these pulses were sold to all the customers and were not restricted to the ration card holders.

b) Sale of Atta by Conversion of wheat allotted under OMSS

Similarly the Govt. of NCT of Delhi in collaboration with Delhi Roller Flour Mills Association is processing the fortified wheat to flour and selling it to the public.

S. No.	Allocation of wheat by Govt. of Delhi	Wheat lifted by Roller Flour Mills	Atta Sold after grinding the wheat
1.	50000 MT	38000 MT	33028 MT

The atta is being sold at a reasonable price of Rs. 139 per bag of 10 kg through 328 outlets of Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF, Circle Offices of the Food & Supplies Department and sale point identified

in consultation with area MLAs, It is not necessary to have ration cards to get this atta from the designated outlets.

c) Other items (Rice & Sugar)

8361 MT of rice has been allocated to the Govt. of Delhi by the Central Govt. under the open market sale scheme. The Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation is finalizing the modalities for packing and distribution of rice in 1 kg pack through Mother Diary and Kendriya Bhandar. Similarly Delhi State Civil Corporation is finalizing to lift the sugar from sugar mills and sell it in 1 kg pack through Kendriya Bhandar and Mother Diary at subsidized rates keeping in view of the soaring prices in the whole sale and retail market.

Regulation of stock limits of Essential Commodities

The Food & Supply Department has enforced the stock limit of various items i.e. sugar, rice, edible oil, pulses and edible oil seeds (including ground nut in shell) from time to time through various notifications (copy enclosed).

Enforcement Action

The Food & Supply Department is also engaged in ensuring implementation of various control orders issued from time to time under the Essential Commodities Act like adherence to stock limits, preventing black marketing, hoarding, food adulteration and to check less weighing and overcharging and distribution of specified food articles (SFA)/K. oil under PDS. Raids are conducted by the Department on stockiest/licensees from time to time and in case of severe violations, FIR

is lodged against the accused and after investigation cases/challans are put in the Court of Law.

The Number of inspections/raids conducted and follow-up action in the last one year is as under (Detail enclosed) :--

Wholesale Godowns

i)	Number of Raids conducted	19
ii)	Number of Discrepancies found	06
iii)	Number of FIR lodged	06

PDS outlets

i)	Number of Inspections/raids conducted	336
ii)	Number of cases in which penalty imposed	276
iii)	Number of suspension/cancellation/FIR	006

Weights and Measurement

i)	Number of inspection conducted	4907
ii)	Number of prosecution	2633

Allocation of additional quota of wheat and rice for the PDS beneficiaries

The Govt. of India has released an ad-hoc additional allocation of Foodgrains (wheat & rice) i.e. 21473 tons of wheat and 6347 tons of rice per month for Govt. of Delhi to be distributed under PDS. It has been decided that additional quota released by Govt. of India at the revised MSP may be distributed to all the APL unstamped card holders of Delhi @ 10 kg. per card.

Further proposals of Govt. of NCT of Delhi to GOI.

I. Request for additional Allocation of Sugar

Allocation of additional quantity of levy sugar at PDS rates for the 14 lakhs (stamped) APL card holders in view of the soaring whole sale and retail price of the sugar in the open market.

II. Request for revision of rates of additional quota of wheat and rice under PDS

An additional quota of 21473 tons of Wheat and 6347 tons of Rice per month have been allocated by the Govt. of India for distribution to BPL, AAY and APL card holders under the PDS at a minimum support price of Rs. 1080 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 1537.31 per quintal for rice which is much higher than the PDS rates. It is not possible to distribute wheat and rice under the PDS to the card holders at two different rates. Therefore, Ministry has been is being requested to consider allowing Delhi Govt. to sell and distribute additional quota at PDS rates of Rs. 2 for wheat per kg and Rs. 3 for rice per kg for AAY card holders, Rs. 4.65 for wheat per kg and Rs. 6.15 for rice per kg to BPL card holders and Rs. 6.80 for wheat per kg and Rs. 9.00 for rice per kg to APL card holders.