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## Inflation affects green grocery market too

### TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Till a fortnight back Rs 100 used to fetch Alka Sharma vegetables required for a week in her household. "But today, even double the expenditure is not enough," says Alka, a housewife, whose monthly budget has gone awry due to spiralling price hike of vegetables and fruits in last few days.

Like Alka, there are many households in the city who are finding it hard to manage their monthly budget because of skyrocketing prices. A random visit to the green grocery market showed that vegetables prices have doubled in a fortnight. Shushma Srivastava, another housewife, said "I am not able to provide seasonal vegetables to my kids frequently because of higher rates, which is creating a turbulence in my monthly budget".

The price of almost every vegetables except onion and potato has gone up to 25 to 30 per cent in the wholesale market and retail price staggering up to 45 to 50 per cent. A random market survey revealed an increase in the price of spinach to Rs 40-45 from Rs 10-15 kg a few days back.

The price of tomato has gone up to Rs 55-60 from Rs 40 a kg and capsicum to Rs 60-80 from Rs 40 per kg at the start of this month. The price of onion has gone up to Rs 20 from Rs 15-18 per kg but still remained steady in the market.

Variation between the wholesale prices and retail prices is staggering between 25%-30%.

The association said that price of veggies in Indiranagar and Gomtinagar were higher when compared with the rate of same vegetables in Nishatganj or Aliganj. The reason, said a vegetable vendor Prahlad Sonkar, was the cost of transportation.

"The bad news is that prices of green vegetables will continue to soar for another week," said Badri Yadav, treasurer, Sabzi Mandi Dukandar Kalyan Samiti. "Even vegetable vendors are feeling the heat," he added. Blaming inflation as the main reason behind the trend, Yadav said that vendors were compelled to compromise their profit margins to keep the prices from increasing further. "The number of consumers has dropped considerably," reasoned a vegetable vendor in Narhi. Coming to the reasons, monsoon is a driving force behind escalating price of veggies and fruits. "Rotting of vegetables is common in the rainy months.

Decaying starts even before they are ready for the market," shared Manzur Ali, a vegetable vendor. Humidity and sudden change of temperatures, he said, is to be blamed.

Rains also affect transportation of vegetables which adds to the cost. The extra burden is passed on to the common man.

Inflation appears to be another reason for it has caused universal soaring of commodity prices. What may wreck havoc in future is that a inflation rate is likely to increase further.

The worst part is that with the rainy seasons on in full swing and rising inflation there's no relief on cards.



A vegetable vendor at Nishatganj vegetable market