

1/ The market price may not be the same as the equilibrium price due to various market imperfections or external factors, such as :

• Price controls : Government-imposed price ceilings or floors can prevent the market from reaching equilibrium.

• Information asymmetry : Buyers or sellers may not have complete information about market conditions, leading to temporary price deviations.

• External shocks : Sudden changes in demand or supply can disrupt the equilibrium.

• Sticky prices : Prices may

not adjust immediately to changes in market conditions due to contractual agreements or other rigidities.

• Why? If the price of a good is above the equilibrium price, the quantity supplied exceeds the quantity demanded, resulting in a surplus. This surplus creates downward pressure on the price as $\rightarrow$

• Sellers compete $\Rightarrow$ Firms to sell their excess supply leading to price reductions.

• Buyers have bargaining power. With a surplus, buyers negotiate lower prices.

• Market forces push prices

As sellers reduce prices to clear inventory, the market price falls toward the equilibrium price.

3x If the price of a good is below the equilibrium price, the quantity demanded exceeds the quantity supplied, resulting in a shortage. This shortage creates upwards pressure on the price :->

• Buyers compete

• Sellers increase prices

• Market forces push prices up.