

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2439
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2022

PERIODIC REVIEW OF LIST OF COMMODITIES

2439. SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION** उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any attempts to institute a proper mechanism for periodic review of the list of commodities notified under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has considered adding more consumables related to health to the list, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the action taken by the concerned authorities to minimise occurrences of artificial shortages;
- (d) whether the Government has instituted penal action against businesses procuring essential commodities in bulk; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b) : As per need and demands, Government reviews the list of the essential commodities scheduled under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 after taking the views of the stakeholders concerned.

(c) : No such report regarding artificial shortages has been received to this department.

(d) & (e) : The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (EC Act) empowers the Government to regulate prices, production, supply, distribution etc. of essential commodities for maintaining or increasing their supplies and for securing their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices. Most of the powers under the Act have been delegated by the Central Government to the State Governments with the direction that they shall exercise these powers. Provisions of the EC Act are implemented on an ongoing basis through the State Governments/ UT Administrations for the prevention of illegal and unethical trade practices like hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities etc.
