

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4089
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000
ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY

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

- (a) the number of persons against whom action has been taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1980 in the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the objective of the said Act has not been achieved;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the Essential Commodities Act?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREE PRASAD)

(a) : As per information received till date from various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, the number of persons whom action has been taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 during the last three years, year-wise, is as under:

Year	Persons arrested	Prosecuted	Convicted
1998	6245	5329	3705
1999	8780	4597	2827
2000	3265	1328	957

(upto 31.7.2000)

(b) : No, Sir.

(c) : Does not arise.

(d) : In order to make the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 more effective and to also eliminate scope for unnecessary harassment, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.