

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:791
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
CHANGE IN ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to effect sweeping changes in the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 to bring it in consonance with the liberalised economic environment in the country;
- (b) if so, whether some of the changes proposed restrict the said Act to specific sectors only;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the sectors to be covered;
- (d) whether it is further proposed to empower the Union Government to make changes in the list of commodities and schedules under the said Act;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): The provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the list of the essential commodities are being reviewed on the basis of their relevance in the context of liberalization and the need for dismantling of unnecessary or irrelevant restrictions on movement and distribution of essential commodities, particularly of agricultural commodities, across the country. After consultation with the concerned Ministries, it is proposed to amend the Act.

(f) : A Bill to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 will be introduced in the Parliament as and when a formal decision is taken in this regard at the appropriate level.