

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1437  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008  
MONTHLY REPORT ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES  
Jha Shri Raghunath;Singh Shri Prabhunath

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

- (a) whether the Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) set up for monitoring the availability and prices of essential commodities has failed to check the rise in prices of essential commodities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the State Governments/UT administrations were directed by the Union Government to submit monthly reports regarding the action taken under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980:
- (d) if so, whether the said reports have been received from all the States;
- (e) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of raids conducted and detentions made under the said Act;and
- (f) if not, the details thereof and reasons therefor alongwith the action taken to ensure proper compliance of the orders?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): No, Sir. Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) set up under Department of Consumer Affairs is mandated to only monitor on a daily basis the retail prices of 14 essential commodities, viz., rice, wheat, atta, gram, tur/arhar, tea, milk, sugar, vanaspati, mustard oil, groundnut oil, potato, onion and salt. It has not been setup to control/ check the rise in prices of essential commodities. Report are prepared in this regard and sent to PMO, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Finance and other concerned Departments. Besides, the situation of prices of essential commodities is regularly monitored at High Level Meetings of Cabinet Committee on Prices, Committee of Secretaries and Cabinet

(b) does not arise.

(c) to (f): There is a standing order issued to all the State Governments and UT Administrations to submit monthly reports to the Central Government (Department of Consumer Affairs) indicating the action taken under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 as also the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. State Governments/UT Administrations which fail to submit such reports are regularly reminded to furnish the same.

The enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 lies with the State Governments/ Union Territories. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been delegated powers to take necessary action under the provisions of both `The Essential Commodities Act, 1955` and `The Prevention of Blackmarketing of Essential Commodities Act, 1980`,to prevent malpractices in essential commodities.

The action taken under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 during the year 2007 as reported by the States/UTs upto 04.03.2008 is detailed below:

(i) No. of Raids conducted: 227044

(ii) No. of persons arrested: 6860

(iii) No. of persons prosecuted: 4872

(iv) No. of persons convicted: 349

(v) Value of goods confiscated: Rs. 39.37 Crores

For the prevention of unethical trade practices like hoarding and black marketing etc.the `Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies Act,1980 `is being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations,. The Act empowers the Central & State Governments to detain persons whose activities are found to be prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community. Details of detention orders,as reported to the Central Government by the State Governments during 2007 is as under:

Name of the State   Details of Detention Orders  
                          during the year2007

Gujarat	50
Tamil Nadu	65
Maharashtra	1
Madhya Pradesh	3
Total	119