

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:110
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
STOCK LIMIT FOR FOODGRAINS
Rathod Shri Ramesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has curtailed the role of private trade by raising Stock limits and imposing other controls in the case of wheat and rice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the future action plan prepared in this regard for the XI Five Year Plan?

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 (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to prevent malpractices in essential commodities. To enable the State Governments/UT Administrations to take effective action for undertaking de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it was decided to enable State Governments to impose stockholding limits by keeping in abeyance some provisions of the Central Order dated 15.02.2002 in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oilseeds, rice, paddy and sugar for the period upto 30.09.2010. The commodity wheat which had also been included in the above list has been removed w.e.f.01.04.2009. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered to fix stock limits in respect of these items to take effective action under the Essential Commodities Act against hoarders and speculators and bring out hoarded stock of these items into the open market. The State Government/Union Territory Administrations have fixed the stock limits as per their local requirement. As per information furnished by the State Government/UT Administrations 23 State Governments/AJTs have either issued stock limits for all the six items or for individual items or have issued only licensing requirements/stock declaration (of these 23, 18 States/UTs have actually issued stock limit Orders; 5 States/UTs have issued licensing requirements/stock declarations). The State Governments/UT Administrations have been repeatedly requested to strictly enforce both the Acts and also monitor such enforcements.

(d): No such special action plan prepared for the XI Five Year Plan.