

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3924  
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010  
COMMODITIES UNDER ECA  
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

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

- (a) the number of commodities presently included in the list of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA) 1955;
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed/proposes to review the relevance of the said Act in the light of economic liberalization and rising prices; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made therein?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a): The number of commodities presently included in the list of essential commodities under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 are seven (7) and these are specified in the Schedule to the Act, as under:

- (1) Drugs;
- (2) Fertilizer, whether inorganic, organic or mixed;
- (3) Foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils;
- (4) Hank yarn made wholly from cotton;
- (5) Petroleum and petroleum products;
- (6) Raw jute and jute textile;
- (7)(i) seeds of food-crops and seeds of fruits and vegetables; (ii) seeds of cattle fodder; and (iii) jute seeds, (iv) cotton seed

(b) & (c): The Chief Ministers Conference held on 06-02-2010 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister had recommended the constitution of a Standing Core Group comprising Chief Ministers and Central Ministers to deliberate on and recommend measures to, inter-alia, reduce the gap between fannagate prices and retail prices and better implementation of and amendment to Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The Core Group has been constituted and it has already met once on 08-04-2010 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. As per decision taken therein, a Working Group on Consumer Affairs has been constituted to look into the issues relating to Essential Commodities Act, 1955.