

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6163  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010  
ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT  
Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

(a) whether the Government has received any suggestions from some State Governments to the effect that offences registered under the Essential Commodities Act may be made non-bailable; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

**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) & (b): Some State Governments have suggested that offences registered under the Essential Commodities Act may be made non-bailable. 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 farmgate 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. This suggestion will be placed before the Working Group.