

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3061

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011

SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

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

(a) whether hindrances are being faced in implementation of rules/laws relating to control of hoarding and black-marketing and maintenance of supply of essential commodities, including assault on enforcement authorities recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): 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 'The Essential Commodities Act, 1955'. No details of cases of hindrances in implementation of rules/laws relating to control of hoarding and black-marketing and maintenance of supplies of essential commodities including assault on enforcement authorities have recently been reported to the Government of India. However, the number of raids conducted, number of persons prosecuted, number of persons convicted and value of goods confiscated for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 during 2010 as reported by State Governments/UTs are as under:

Year	No. of raids	No.of persons arrested	No.of persons prosecuted	No.of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (in Rs.lakhs)
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2010	204783	10906	4539	161	10500.7
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(updated as on
23.02.2011)

The State Governments/UT Administrations are empowered to detain such persons under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, whose activities are found to be prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community. Details of detention orders issued under the said Act and as reported to the Central Government by the State Governments/UT Administrations during the year 2010 are given below:-

Name of the State 2010

Gujarat 79

Tamil Nadu 120

Orissa 02

Maharashtra 02

Andhra Pradesh 01

Chhattisgarh 01

Total 205

As a follow up to the Chief Ministers(CMs) Conference held on 06.02.2010 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, a Standing Core Group of some State CMs and Central Ministers had been constituted. The Core Group in its first meeting held on 08.04.2010 had decided, among others, to constitute a Working Group on Consumer Affairs under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Gujarat (with CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra as its Members). The terms of reference of the Working Group included, inter-alia, the better implementation of and amendments to the Essential Commodities Act. The Working Group on Consumer Affairs has submitted its report on 02.03.2011 to the Prime Minister.