

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:353
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009
REVIEW OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT,1955
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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, 1955;
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed/proposes to review the relevance of the said Act in the light of economic liberalisation; 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 Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was last amended in 2006.As per the amended Act, the number of essential commodities 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,

(b): There is no proposal to further amend the Act.

(c): In view of (b) above question does not arise.