

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1389
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
HOARDING OF FOODGRAINS
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether rampant hoarding, coupled with drop in procurement of foodgrains have resulted in rise in price of essential commodities including foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is working satisfactorily in the States;
- (d) if not, the action proposed to be taken for improving its working;
- (e) whether the Government propose to amend the said Act so as to prevent hoarding by traders;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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): No, Madam. No reports of rampant hoarding have been received by the Central Government. There is no drop in procurement of wheat and rice in last 3 years. The details are as under:

Procurement in relevant Marketing Seasons

(Figures in lakh tons)

Marketing Season Rice Wheat

2006-07 251.07 92.26

2007-08 284.93 111.28

2008-09 313.93 226.89

2009-10 - 250.79
as on 09.07.2009

(c) to (f): No complaints have been received from `State Governments/Union Territory Administrations regarding working of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Essential Commodities Act has provisions to impose stock/turnover limits for various commodities. At present such limits have been imposed in several States for pulses, edible oil, edible oilseeds, rice,paddy and sugar. The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was last amended in 2006. There is no proposal to further amend the Act.