

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2352
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
MEASURES AGAINST HOARDING
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

- (a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government regarding the efficacy of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to check hoarding;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) the details of the raids conducted, goods seized and traders booked for violation of rules regarding hoarding and stock limits of essential commodities during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) the details of the action taken against the persons including officials held for violation of the said rules; and
- (e) the other steps taken to check hoarding of essential commodities?

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): The Standing Committee of Parliament had in its 28th Report, inter- alia, suggested that the Department should examine whether there is any lacunae in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The State Governments/UT Administrations were requested to send their views on the recommendation made by the Committee. Responses had been received from 20 States/UTs and these had been examined. It was felt that there is no lacuna in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and that the available provisions are adequate, if properly implemented, to achieve the desired objectives.

(c) & (d): The details of the raids conducted, -value of goods confiscated and persons booked for violation of rules during the year 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (updated upto 16-07-2009) as reported by State Governments/UT Administrations are at Annexure I to IV. Details of detention orders under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, as reported to the Central Government by the State Governments/UT Administrations during the period from 01-01-2006 to 16-07-2009 are given below:-

Name of the State 2006 2007 2008 2009

(as on 16-07-2009)

Gujarat 85 50 16 10

Tamil Nadu 74 65 141 69

Orissa 01 - 01 02

Maharashtra 01 01 - 01

Madhya Pradesh - 03 - -

Andhra Pradesh - - 04 -

Total 161 119 162 82

(e): Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. To enable the State Governments/UT Administrations to continue to take effective action for undertaking de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it was decided to enable State Governments to impose restrictions like stockholding limits by keeping in abeyance some provisions of the Central Order dated 15-02-2002 in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oilseeds, rice, paddy and sugar. The commodity wheat which had also been included in the above list has been removed w.e.f. 01-04-2009. Further, in respect of sugar, the Central Government have also issued Orders providing for stock-holding/turnover limits which are as follows;

Stockholding:

(i) in Kolkata and extended area "â€"

(a) recognized dealers who import sugar from outside West Bengal - 10,000 quintals;

(b) other recognized dealers - 2000 quintals;

(ii) in other places - 2000 quintals.

Turnover: No dealer can hold the stock of sugar for a period exceeding 30 days from the date of receipt by him of such stock.