

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3253
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
BLACK MARKETING AND HOARDING OF FOOD ITEMS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether hoarding and blackmarketing of foodgrains, food items, oils, milk, ghee and spices is prevalent in the country despite strict laws in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme/action plan to check the hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities all over the country;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be formulated;
- (e) whether steps are being taken to strengthen and empower the monitoring cells to check such activities; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (f): Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (EC Act) and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (PBMSEC Act). 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. 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 -

- (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.

The Government of India gets reports from State Governments on action taken under the two Acts referred to above. As per the reports received in 2008, 162 persons were detained under the PBMSEC Act and 790 persons were convicted under the EC Act.