

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5117  
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012  
PRICE OF GROUNDNUT OIL  
Tanwar Shri Ashok

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

- (a) whether there has been a spurt in the prices of groundnut oil during the last one year due to various reasons including hoarding and black-marketing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases reported regarding hoarding and black-marketing of groundnut oil during the said period alongwith the number of persons arrested and the quantum and value of oil recovered; and
- (d) the steps taken to check hoarding and black-marketing of groundnut oil to control its prices?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. There has been increase in the prices of groundnut oil during the last one year. The wholesale prices of groundnut oil in the domestic (as on 2.5.2012) have increased by 50% during the last one year. This is due to decline in production of groundnut (in shell) which is lower by 13.16 lakh tons in 2011-12 as compared to 2010-11 and increase in international prices of edible oils which also affects the domestic prices, as about 50% of domestic demand is met through imports. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been delegated powers to take necessary action under the provisions of both "The Essential Commodities Act, 1955" and "The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980", to prevent hoarding and blackmarketing of essential commodities. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been repeatedly requested to strictly enforce both the Acts and also monitor enforcement of these Acts.

(c): No information is maintained for a specific item by the Central Government. However, the details of the raids conducted, value of goods confiscated and persons booked for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, during 2011 as reported by State Governments/UT Administrations are as under:

No. of Raids	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (Rs. In lakhs)
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180785	4498	4486	30	7164.8068
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(d): In order to check price rise including hoarding and blackmarketing of essential commodities including groundnut oil, the Government of India has taken the following steps:-

(1). A Conference of Chief Ministers was held on 06.02.2010, which was presided over by the Prime Minister to consider measures to insulate the poor and vulnerable from adverse price movements. As a follow up, a Core Group of some Chief Ministers and concerned Central Ministers met under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 08.04.2010 and recommended inter alia setting up of a Working Group on Consumer Affairs (under the Chairmanship of CM Gujarat with CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra as its Members) to suggest strategies plan of action for reducing the gap between farmgate and retail prices and recommend measures for amendment and better implementation of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. These include the improvement of distributional efficiency, reducing intermediation costs, promoting State intervention for retailing essential commodities at reasonable prices and enforcement of Statutory provisions with a view to meeting both short and long term goals. Chief Minister, Gujarat, has submitted the Report of the Working Group to the Prime Minister on 2nd March, 2011.

(2). In January, 2011 Video Conferences were held by Cabinet Secretary/Secretary with Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs reiterating the need for enforcement of the provisions of EC Act and PBM Act to curb malpractices and provide adequate supplies of essential commodities at affordable prices and if required use State intervention and facilitate alternate arrangements for augmenting supplies of essential commodities.

(3). Minister(I/C),(Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution) wrote to Chief Ministers of all States/UTs on this issue vide letter dt.04.02.2011.

(4). Minister (I/C), (CAF&PD) had convened meetings of the Ministers of Food/PD/ Consumer Affairs of States/UTs on Zonal basis in February, 2011 inter-alia, to control rise in prices and ensure adequate availability of essential commodities at affordable prices for consumers.

(5). To enable the State Governments/UT Administrations to take effective action for undertaking de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it was decided to enable State Governments to impose stockholding limits by keeping in abeyance some provisions of the Central Order dated 15.02.2002 in respect of edible oils and edible oilseeds. At present stock limits are permitted for edible oils and edible oilseeds for a period upto 30.09.2012.

(6). 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 2011 are given below:-

Name of the State 2011

Tamil Nadu 198

Gujarat 67

Maharashtra 05

Total 270