

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5263

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012

STOCK LIMITS

Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

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

(a) whether the Government has raised the stock limits and imposed other controls on wheat and rice to curtail the role of private traders;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan in this regard for the Twelfth Five Year Plan according to the needs of each State including Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(d): The enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 lies with the State Governments/Union Territories. 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.

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 pulses, edible oils, edible oilseeds, rice and paddy. At present stock limits are permitted for pulses, edible oils and edible oilseeds for a period upto 30.09.2012 and in respect of rice and paddy upto 30.11.2012 for the 7 States/UTs i.e. Andhra Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Manipur, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Andaman & Nicobar Islands who had sent their request specifically opting for continuation of stock limits in respect of Paddy and Rice. Wheat had been withdrawn from the ambit of stock holding limits in 2009.

No action plan for the Twelfth Five Year Plan has been prepared with regard to stock limits.